

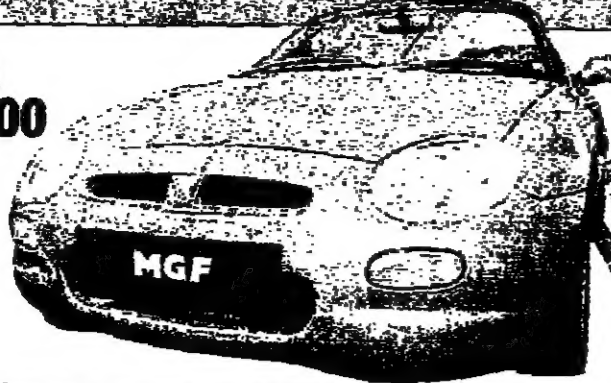
TODAY

**TAKE A FRIEND TO  
A CONCERT FOR 30P**  
DETAILS AND TOKEN 1  
WEEKEND PAGE 23

**BABY IT'S YOU**  
A guide to toddler chic  
WEEKEND

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£17,000  
MGF**

TODAY'S  
TOKEN  
CAR 25  
PAGE 5



THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

**SUMMER OF '66**

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Euro 96 final



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ON THE OPENING  
SHOTS OF EURO 96**

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## £18m bill for fire service's 'blunder'

By IAN MURRAY AND RICHARD DUCE

EMERGENCY services face a  
spate of claims for damages  
after a county council was  
ordered to pay £16 million  
compensation and more than  
£2 million legal costs yester-  
day because of a "bad blun-  
der" by its fire brigade.

Hampshire was found li-  
able by the High Court for the  
damage to the state-of-the-art  
headquarters of Digital  
Equipment computer complex  
in Basingstoke, which was  
destroyed by fire in 1990.

The court refused to accept  
the council's argument that  
fire brigades, like the police,  
are immune from being sued  
as a matter of public policy.

The county is to seek leave  
to appeal, but brigades fear that  
the decision could lead to  
many more damages claims.

"If this judgment is upheld,  
it means that anybody who  
has a grievance about the way  
a fire was put out can go to  
law," Mark Oates, of the  
Association of County Coun-  
cils, said. "It is going to make  
firemen start worrying about  
the legal consequences when  
they should be thinking about  
putting out the fire."

Mike Warner, chairman of  
the association's fire services  
committee, said: "This is a  
dangerous precedent. It will  
affect the judgment of officers  
about whether to send their  
men into a fire. Judges sitting  
on benches have no idea what  
it means to go into a blazing  
building and take life-and-  
death decisions while facing  
death themselves."

The Digital Equipment fire  
on March 6, 1990 left little  
time for the brigade to act.  
There was just time to evacu-  
ate the 400 staff before the  
blaze swept through the mod-  
ern building. More than 100  
firefighters from 15 Hamp-

shire and Berkshire stations  
were called, but they had little  
chance because of the speed  
with which the fire spread  
through the building. A plume  
of smoke that could be seen  
from 30 miles away rose above  
the fire.

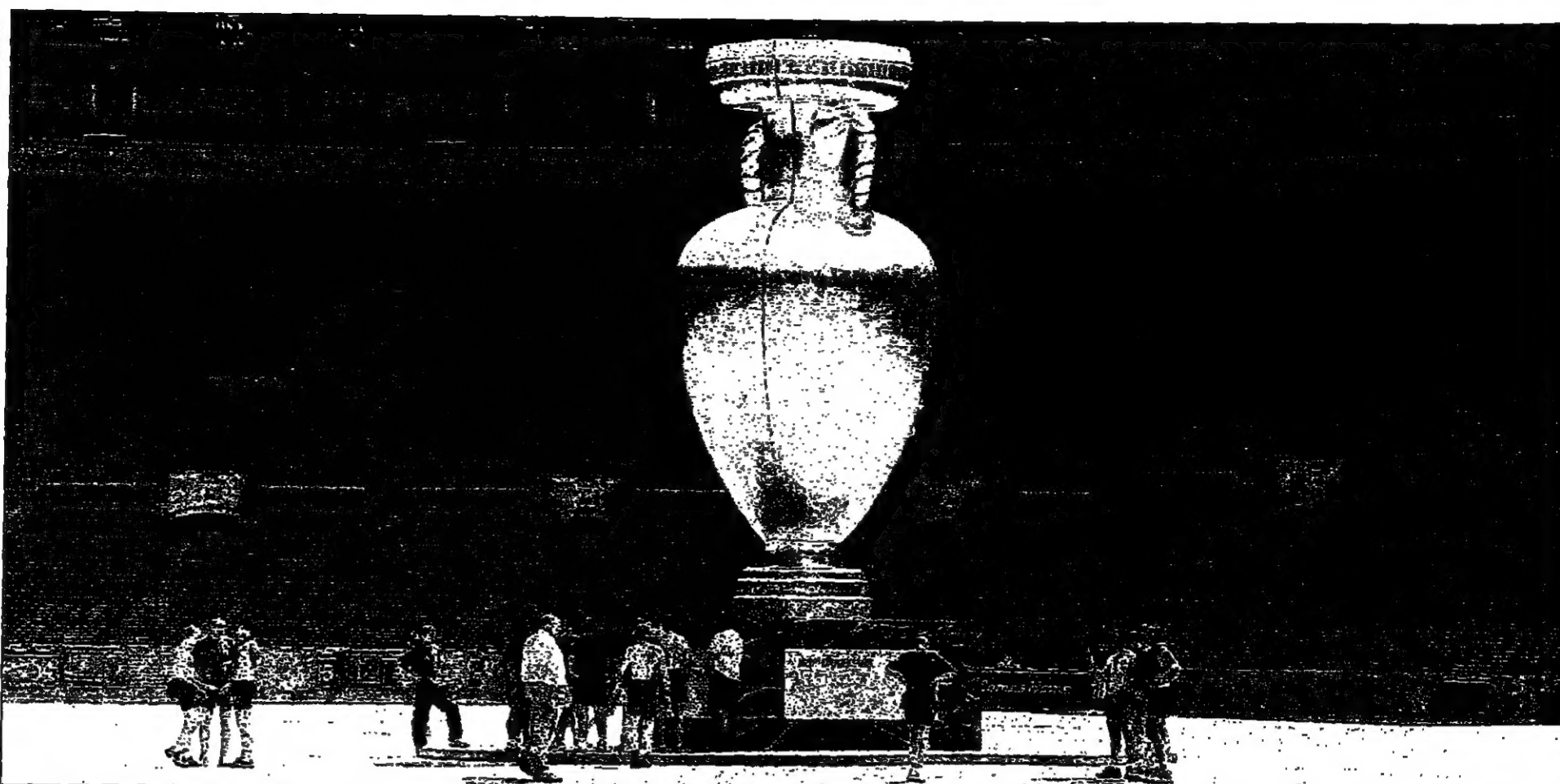
"The fire was moving faster  
than a man could run," ac-  
cording to Peter Robertson,  
Chief Executive of Hamp-  
shire. "They had no hope of  
doing much about it because  
of the design of the building.  
There were no fire breaks and  
a fire ball just swept through  
the roof space in no time."

"The officer in charge took  
a decision to turn the sprinkler  
system off. There was so much  
smoke billowing up that it was  
impossible to see where the  
seat of the fire was. He decided  
that the sprinklers were con-  
tributing to the smoke and  
that if they were switched off,  
it might be possible to find the  
seat of the fire and put it out.  
On top of that, he came to the  
conclusion that as there was so  
much computer equipment  
there, it would be wrecked if  
water poured on to it."

"He took the best decision  
he could in very difficult  
circumstances. We have no  
criticism to make of him."

"On the contrary, the fact  
that there were no casualties  
at all in a very major fire is a  
tribute to his efficiency. In-  
stead of being sued, we should  
be being thanked. This judg-  
ment is a disaster, not only for  
the county, but for brigades all  
over the country. It means that  
council tax payers are being  
asked to pick up the bill which  
should be paid by insurance  
companies."

He added: "The meaning of  
this judgment is that if you do  
nothing, you can't be held  
Continued on page 2, col 6



A dress rehearsal for today's opening ceremony at Wembley of the European football championship, at which 40,000 balloons will be released from a replica of the trophy

## Wembley prepares to send balloon up for Euro 96

By JOHN GOODBODY,  
ALICE THOMPSON AND  
MICHAEL BINYON

SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS  
will this afternoon unveil a 35-  
ft high replica of the European  
football championship trophy  
at Wembley in the opening  
ceremony of the biggest sports  
event to be staged in Britain  
since the 1966 World Cup.

The pageantry of the open-  
ing ceremony, including medi-  
eval knights and a parade of  
famous English players of the  
past, will be screened in 194  
countries. As the replica trophy  
opens, it will release about  
40,000 balloons.

John Major last night her-  
alded the start of Euro 96,  
saying he hoped it would  
spark the return of the  
feelgood factor and a summer  
of easy living.

He said: "We are just enter-  
ing summer sporting heaven  
— two Test series, Wimbledon,  
the Olympics and, starting  
today, Euro 96. All in all, a  
mouth-watering feast of sport-  
ing entertainment. And the  
sun has even started to shine."  
In a 600-word article for the



Press Association, he said he  
was delighted that the third-  
biggest sporting event in the  
world was taking place in  
England and extolled the vir-  
tues of British football.

Mr Major gave tips on who  
to watch — Djorkaeff and Del  
Piero — and countries to  
beware of — a Klinsmann-  
powered Germany. "I would  
not write off the likes of  
Croatia, Russia and Portu-  
gal," he wrote.

A Euro 96 spokesman said  
yesterday: "The dress rehar-  
sal went perfectly. But the  
knights must have been swel-  
tering inside their armour."

More than 1,000 officers will  
be on duty at Wembley for  
England's opening game  
against Switzerland, which  
kicks-off at 3 pm. This follows  
the opening ceremony, which  
will begin with a display  
entitled "Merrie England" — a  
carnival of 320 dancers, fol-  
lowed by an exhibition of men  
dressed as medieval knights  
and a parade of players,  
including Sir Stanley, Gary  
Lineker, and Sir Bobby and  
Jackie Charlton.

Sixteen Red Devils, each  
carrying a flag of one of the  
participating nations, will  
then parachute into the na-

tional stadium. Children will  
parade with flags.

The tournament, which has  
been held every four years  
since 1960, is expected to make  
a profit for UEFA, the govern-  
ing body of European football,  
of about £100 million.

In the only sour note, hun-  
dreds of Russian football fans  
who paid thousands of pounds  
for fares and accommodation  
will be unable to watch their  
side play in because they have  
not been granted visas.

The furious fans have be-  
sieged the Russian state foot-  
ball union. Angry Russian  
officials yesterday accused

British consular staff of keep-  
ing out genuine fans on the  
pretext that they were seeking  
work or political asylum. They  
gave a warning that if the  
issue was not resolved by  
Monday, the Russian consul-  
ate in London would start  
copying British delays.

Of the 373 fans seeking to  
come to Britain, only 62 had  
received visas by yesterday.  
About 245 have been asked to  
go for interview, but only five  
or six applicants are being  
processed each day. Most fans  
submitted their applications  
more than six weeks ago, but  
many have been invited to the  
embassy for interview the day  
after Russia plays its first  
game, on June 11. At inter-  
views, they have been asked to  
name the Russian coach and  
the clubs from which the  
players come.

The fans have pre-paid their  
fixed date plane tickets, which  
cannot be changed. They also  
stand to lose huge sums in lost  
hotel bookings and tickets.

No-go zone, page 5  
Complete guide pages 46-48

### Hussain's first Test century

Nasser Hussain scored 128,  
his maiden Test century, to  
steer England to 313, a first-  
innings lead of 99 over India  
on the second day of the first  
Test at Edgbaston. India were  
five for no wicket in their  
second innings when bad  
light stopped play. Page 48

### Derby double

Henry Cecil, who won yester-  
day's Oaks with Lady Carla,  
saddles the favourite,  
Duskyanor, for today's  
Vodafone Derby. Page 48

## Rabies fear after pregnant woman is bitten by bat

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

A PREGNANT woman has  
been bitten by a bat suspected  
of carrying rabies, the Minis-  
try of Agriculture disclosed  
yesterday.

Sheila Wright and another  
woman who was helping her  
to transport the animal were  
both bitten on the hand as they  
tried to rescue it after it had  
been found in distress in New-  
haven, East Sussex. Both have  
been vaccinated against the  
disease as a precaution, even  
though there have been only  
two known cases in Europe of  
rabies infection from a bat bite.

The bat had most likely  
reached Britain from the Con-  
tinent, blown by winds or  
possibly carried in a container  
to an English port. Keith  
Meldrum, Chief Veterinary  
Officer, said yesterday. But he  
could not rule out the possibi-  
lity that it had contracted the  
rabies in Britain.

The Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*) was found  
on its own on May 30, hanging  
from the wall of a building in  
the town. It was behaving  
oddly, was apparently unable  
to fly, and attempted to bite



Sheila Wright, bitten by a Daubenton's bat



people when they approached.  
Investigations by ministry sci-  
entists have failed to find any  
other bats of the same species  
in the vicinity, or any other  
person who has been bitten.

The bat, now dead, was  
passed on to the Central  
Veterinary Laboratory on  
June 3 and tested positive to an  
initial rabies antibody test. It  
must undergo three further  
tests before the disease can be  
definitely confirmed and final  
results are not expected to be  
known until June 28. If con-  
firmed, this will be the first  
known case of this strain of  
rabies being found in Britain.  
Mr Meldrum said.

The strain is different from  
that suffered by dogs, foxes or  
other pets, and there are no  
known cases of it being trans-  
mitted to other mammals.

There have been only two  
documented cases of humans  
dying after contracting this  
strain — the last in Finland in  
1985, when a scientist who  
frequently handled bats died,  
said Mr Meldrum.

Mrs Wright, who is expect-  
ing her baby in ten days' time,  
is a member of the Sussex Bat  
Group. She said: "I have been  
told I am not much at risk and  
been reassured that I am OK.  
It has come as a shock, but I  
am not too worried."

## Five held over IRA Docklands bombing

By STEWART TENDLER, NICHOLAS WATT AND ADRIAN LEE

FIVE men were held yesterday  
in South Armagh's "Bandit  
Country" and in London by  
detectives investigating the  
IRA lorry bomb attack on the  
Isle of Dogs in London.

The raids were launched by  
anti-terrorist detectives hunt-  
ing for the gang which built  
and delivered the low-loader  
lorry which hid the one-ton  
bomb. The device, planted on  
February 10, killed two men  
and signalled the end of the  
IRA ceasefire.

Yesterday detectives from  
Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist  
branch and the RUC were  
covered by scores of troops as  
they carried out dawn raids on  
addresses in the terrorist  
stronghold of Forkhill, South  
Armagh. The operation was  
described as one of the largest  
since the IRA ceasefire in 1994.

Four men were arrested and  
flown to London for question-  
ing in the high security wing  
of Paddington Green police  
station. They were joined by a  
fifth man of Irish extraction,  
arrested at a London address.  
Last night detectives were also  
hunting a sixth man whose  
east London home ten minutes  
from South Quay was raided  
early yesterday. He disap-

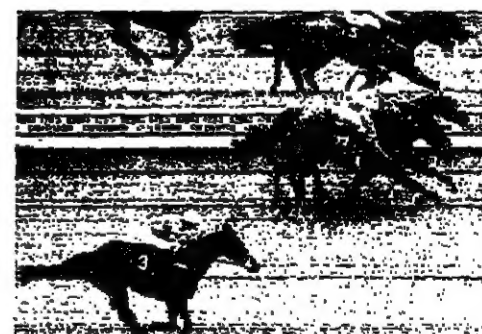
peared a week ago. Detectives  
hope the raids will identify the  
secret workshop on the Ulster  
border where the low-loader  
was built with parts from  
other vehicles.

The operation was started  
by the Yard a month ago and  
led to Ulster. Fresh leads  
brought the investigators back  
to London and new clues.  
Senior ministers were warned  
the raids were being planned  
because of the tension sur-  
rounding peace talks next  
week.

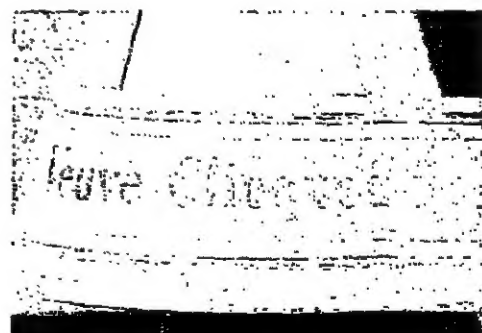
Last night Sinn Fein ac-  
cused the Government of try-  
ing to appease Unionists and  
Conservative backbenchers by  
"saturating" South Armagh  
with troops.

Pat McNamee, Sinn Fein's  
newly elected member of the  
forum for Newry and Ar-  
magh, said: "The arrest of four  
people in South Armagh this  
morning has been used as an  
excuse to saturate the whole  
county with British troops.  
The people of Armagh see the  
actions of the British Govern-  
ment and its army today as  
another act of provocation."

Postal raid, and  
ceasefire hopes, page 2



WINNER BY A HEAD



WINNER BY A NECK

THE DERBY, Epsom	8 June
THE GOSFORD HOUSE ANTIQUE FAIR	13-22 June
ROYAL ASCOT	18-21 June
END CORNWALL TOWN MATCH V INDIA, LLOYD'S	20-24 June
WIMBLEDON TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS	24 June-7 July
ROUND THE ISLAND RACE, ISLE OF WIGHT	29 June
VEVUE CLICQUOT GOLD CUP POLO, COMPTON PARK	30 June-1 July
HANLEY ROYAL REGATTA	3-7 July
HANFORD COURT PALACE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW	9-14 July
BRITISH GRAND PRIX, SILVERSTONE	14 July



**Veve Clicquot**

CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

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England v Holland

#### EURO 96

Bobby Robson,  
Rob Hughes,  
Oliver Holt and  
Lynne Truss on  
the opening event  
of the great  
summer of sport

Simon Barnes at  
Elland Road for  
Spain v Bulgaria

#### CRICKET

Alan Lee and  
Michael Henderson  
on England v India

#### RACING

Alex Greaves, the  
first woman to  
ride in the Derby,  
gives her in-the-  
saddle report



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and get a second one for 30p

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## IRA blamed after policeman is shot dead in ambush

BY AUDREY MAGEE  
IRISH CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Irish policeman was killed and a second seriously injured during a suspected IRA raid on a mail van in a tourist village in the west of Ireland yesterday.

Police sources say they were paying little attention to IRA denials of involvement in the murder of Detective Gerry McCabe, 52, and the shooting of a colleague in Adare, Co Limerick, yesterday. They found two incendiary devices and Kalashnikov bullets in and near the two vehicles used by the gunmen.

The use of the Kalashnikov rifle and the paramilitary mode of the attack were seen by officers as pointing to a republican terrorist link.

The shooting happened at 6.55am as Detective McCabe and his long-time colleague, Detective William O'Sullivan, also 52, were escorting a post office lorry carrying up to £100,000 in social security cheques and pension payments for residents in West Limerick.

Outside the Adare post office a black four-wheel drive vehicle with false number plates rammed the back of the unmarked police car. Up to four masked and heavily



McCabe: shot before he could reach his gun

armed men got out and sprayed the car with bullets, killing Detective McCabe instantly and wounding his colleague in the right shoulder and face.

The two policemen were armed with hand guns and an Uzi sub-machinegun but had no time to reach for their weapons. William Jackson, 46, the post office driver, said the gunmen had full access to the money but took nothing. He said "I instantly put up my hands because I thought it was going to be me next. Either one of them panicked, or it was an assassination."

He said the gunmen were wearing balaclavas and military fatigues. The local news-agent was walking to work when the shooting happened. He said the two detectives had no chance of escape.

Locals reported the gunmen shouted "Leave it; go, go, go" before escaping in a saloon car. The getaway car was later found in a wooded area about eight miles away.

The two policemen were long-time partners, and well-known in the Limerick area. Detective McCabe was the father of five children and had been in the Garda for more than 30 years. Detective O'Sullivan had received the Scott medal for bravery for his part in foiling a bank raid. Both were friends of the former Irish Justice Minister and local member of parliament Desmond O'Malley. He said he believed a paramilitary connection was "quite likely".

In Dublin government circles, while the incident was regarded as grave, it was not seen as a genuine threat to the peace process. The shooting, the thirteenth Irish police fatality since the start of the Northern Ireland troubles, was condemned by the Prime Minister, John Major, and the Justice Minister, Nora



A police officer stands watch over the victim's car

Owen. The search for the gang extended over several southwestern counties.

The official view appeared to be that while past or present IRA men may have carried out the killing it was unlikely the

shooting had been authorised by the organisation's army council.

The IRA distanced themselves from the shooting in a statement telephoned to the RTE broadcasting network.

## Speculation grows over renewed ceasefire

BY NICHOLAS WATT  
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA fuelled speculation yesterday that it may renew its ceasefire when a senior republican source said its leadership was studying the Anglo-Irish agenda for next week's all-party talks.

Amid uncertainty about the republican movement's strategy ahead of the talks, the source said it was significant that the IRA was prepared to say publicly that it was studying the document.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, said that the IRA statement showed the "IRA's preparedness" to help the peace process. Speaking in

Magherafelt, Co Londonderry, he went further than the IRA statement when he said the Anglo-Irish agenda could play a "potentially useful part in providing a framework to settle procedural and agenda matters".

David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, said yesterday that he would call for republicans and loyalists to be excluded from the talks if they failed to start decommissioning by the end of the opening session.

The MP for Upper Bann added that his party had not yet accepted the Anglo-Irish decision to invite George Mitchell to chair the all-party talks. Mr Trimble is seeking a meeting with Mr Mitchell to be reassured that the former US Senator will act impartially.

Unionists also called on the RUC to arrest six prominent republicans who were named by the BBC as leading members of the IRA.

Mr Paisley's comments came after Thursday night's edition of *Spotlight*, a BBC Northern Ireland current affairs programme, described six well-known republicans as the "key decision makers" of the IRA.

The programme named Martin McGuinness, 45, Sinn Féin's chief negotiator with the British Government, who has just been elected to the new Northern Ireland forum for the Foyle constituency.

He recently denied that he was a member of the IRA Army Council, although he told a Dublin court in the

1970s that he was "very proud" to be a member of the IRA.

It also named Gerry Kelly, 43, the convicted IRA bomber who has also just been elected to the new forum for the North Belfast constituency, and Brian Keenan, who was described in the programme as one of the most intelligent military operators in the modern IRA.

Others alleged by the programme to be IRA chiefs were: Sean "Spike" Murray, from Belfast; Kevin McKenna and Joe Cahill.

An RUC spokesman said: "We are fully aware of the contents of the *Spotlight* programme. However, successful prosecutions in court require hard evidence."

## Trimble backs EU rebels

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAVID TRIMBLE, the Ulster Unionist leader whose support is critical to the Conservatives, has agreed to sponsor Bill Cash's Referendum Bill, which is opposed by the Government. John Redwood, the defeated Tory leadership candidate, has decided to vote for the Bill and give Mr Cash his support.

Tory whips have been working behind the scenes to try to limit backbench support for the Tory MP's Bill, which he will introduce under the Commons 10-minute rule procedure on Monday. The Ulster Unionists, who have made increasingly Euro-sceptic noises over the issue of fishing quotas, were expected

to remain in Ulster on Monday for the first day of the historic all-party peace talks.

But Mr Trimble has not only agreed to vote for the measure, he is one of the 12 sponsors. Peter Shore, the veteran Labour MP and former Cabinet minister, has also been signed up as a sponsor in a further sign of growing all-party support.

Mr Cash and his supporters, who include Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, were expected to spend the weekend telephoning potential supporters. Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, and Nick Harvey, a Liberal Democrat MP who was a member of the Maas-

tricht referendum campaign, will be high on the list.

Mr Cash, MP for Stafford, said: "The Government has taken issue with the Bill. The Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats have sat on their hands. But support is coming in from all quarters."

The Bill stops short of demanding withdrawal from the European Union. The question is focused instead on whether Britain supports monetary union, a single currency and a federal Europe. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and his Treasury team met yesterday at Dorneywood, his country residence, to review options for the Budget.

## £18m bill

Continued from page 1  
liable. If you do something, then people can hold you responsible for a decision taken at a time when nobody can possibly know what the right thing to do is."

Hampshire is one of a number of fire brigades which have stopped buying insurance and fund a plan of their own. This is an economy measure because of the high cost of premiums at a time when county councils are paying expenses to the minimum. The damages bill will be met from county funds, but it will mean cuts in other services in the year ahead. Mr Roberston said that the council was seeking a stay in paying the damages until any appeal was heard.

In his ruling yesterday, Judge Havery QC, the High Court Judge, said the county must pay because there was no justification for the officer departing from the principle that sprinklers should always be left on until a fire was extinguished.



The fire at the Digital Equipment building

saying unmeritorious actions would not succeed. □ US experience: Lawsuits against fire brigades happen occasionally in the United States, although they are more common in small communities where there might be a volunteer firefighter who has fallen down on the job (Quentin Letts writes).

He rejected the argument that his judgement would lead to a flood of similar cases.

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FROM CHARLES BREMNER  
IN BRUSSELS

## Eurocrat accuses Britain over beef

FROM CHARLES BREMNER  
IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN'S top civil servant at the European Commission took the highly unusual step of going public last night with a blunt defence of Britain's place in Europe and implicitly blaming the Government for the BSE crisis.

David Williamson, who, as secretary-general of the Commission, is head of all its staff, said that he wanted to correct the picture because of the "current European witch-hunt". He extolled the benefits that he said Britain gained from its membership of the European Union.

In a speech due to be delivered to a solicitors' conference in York last night, he summed up the EU as "370 million friends and the largest market in the world, for 3p a week." That was the net price paid per head in Britain for all the benefits that accrued from the single market, an entity which he defined as "Britain's greatest achievement in the Community".

Mr Williamson, a former adviser to Margaret Thatcher, said "the best cure for Euro-scepticism is a dose of common sense". His speech amounted to a *cri de coeur* from a man who rarely expresses a view in public. It reflected the indignation widespread among British EU staff over the Government's handling of the BSE affair.

The crisis, Mr Williamson said, was "a British problem". He hoped that the disease could be eradicated quickly and noted that the EU would spend more than £1 billion this year "as a direct consequence of the British authorities' announcement on BSE".

Ministers played down expectations of reaching agreement over the beef crisis before or at the Florence summit on June 21. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, returned from a tour of six European capitals and indicated that there was only a slim chance of the EU agreeing to a framework for a phased lifting of the beef ban within the next two weeks.

FROM CHARLES BREMNER  
IN BRUSSELS

FROM CHARLES BREMNER  
IN BRUSSELS

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IN BRUSSELS

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## Businessman who caught burglar is cleared of assault

By CAROL MROGLEY

A BUSINESSMAN who caught and bound a burglar he found stealing from his warehouse was cleared of false imprisonment and assault yesterday.

A jury took less than 20 minutes to decide that Nick Rodwell, 46, had not behaved unreasonably while carrying out a citizen's arrest on Christopher Love, who suffered a bloody nose and black eye in the scuffle. Three of Mr Rodwell's employees who helped to detain Love, 26, were also found not guilty.

After delivery of their verdict, members of the jury waited outside court to shake the men's hands and offer to buy them a drink. If the defendants had been found guilty they could have faced prison sentences of up to four years.

Mr Rodwell denounced the case, estimated to have cost about £230,000, as a waste of public money. "I knew I was innocent and I believe in justice. At the beginning of the trial they offered me a deal where, if I pleaded guilty to actual bodily harm, I would be let off with a fine. But I refused because I wanted to clear my name and my family's name."

He said he had been driven to take direct action because a string of 30 break-ins within a



Love: given community service for burglary

year was crippling his business in Kettering, Northamptonshire. He had lost £20,000 of stock, including training shoes, tea sets and hi-fis.

"This has destroyed me and put a great deal of strain on my family," said Mr Rodwell. "I have lost two shops and thousands of pounds of stock and been through ten months of hell."

"There has been a lot of personal pressure. For months people have been hearing me as being described as someone who imprisoned a man and beat him up. Nothing was written about the burglar."

"It has taken me seven years to build up this business. I built it up from nothing - now

a burglar has taken two shops away from me.

"I asked the police to help to protect my business, but they said they didn't have the manpower. I had no choice but to do something about it. Christopher Love has admitted stealing from me and he gets 120 hours' community service. He's now working in a charity shop in town."

Northampton Crown Court was told that Mr Rodwell and his workers, Chris Baxter, 31, Greg Hill, 36, and Malcolm Deal, 41, had caught Love climbing through a window at the Kettering Auctions warehouse in August last year. Love had previously worked for Mr Rodwell. They tied his hands behind his back and held him captive for nearly three hours, during which they took him to a bedsit and made him hand over stock stolen in previous burglaries.

Mr Rodwell then flagged down a police car. One of the policemen said: "Well done. We have been looking for him for a year." But when they saw Love's hands were tied and his face was bloody and swollen they arrested Mr Rodwell.

Love, who admitted burglary, had 14 previous convictions for burglary and 19 for theft. He claimed that Mr Rodwell punched and hit him with a cricket bat, which Mr Rodwell denied.

"I feel I was treated very badly by the police," Mr Rodwell said. "When they arrested me I had to wear a disposable suit and I was locked up for 23 hours." He is now considering whether to take legal action against the police.

The CPS is understood to have proceeded with the case because violence was threatened, the incident was premeditated and it was carried out by a group with a ringleader. A spokeswoman said that if someone made a citizen's arrest they should telephone the police immediately.



Nick Rodwell thanking jurors after his acquittal

## Girl, 3, locked in car as temperature reaches record 32C

By EMMA WILKINS AND KYLE SMITH

A CHILD left sweltering in a locked car while her mother went shopping was rescued by a policewoman who squeezed through the partly open sunroof.

The distressed child was crying for her mother, but when the woman was found she did not thank the officer. WPC Debbie Forbes, 31, who was called to the car at Newbury, Berkshire, by a worried member of the public, unlocked a door from inside.

She said: "The poor little girl was really baking. She had gone a strange colour, she was crying and screaming 'Mummy'. Her hair was wet and she was covered in sweat."

WPC Forbes, who has three children, took the girl to a café for a cold drink before tracing the mother. "I didn't even get a thank-you from the mum," she said. The policewoman told her that if the RSPCA had been called to a dog in similar circumstances, "her car window would have been smashed and her dog would have been removed".

In Somerset, a three-month-old girl suffered serious sunburn when her grandfather took her for a walk in an open pram. Aisle McCarthy was recovering at the Royal United Hospital, Bath, from heat blisters after her grandfather had pushed her for 40 minutes around a park in Keynsham.

Doctors said that she would recover with minimal scarring.

after they treated her with antibiotics to protect her from infection. They secured her arms so that she would not be able to pick at her blisters.

The highest temperature recorded yesterday - and this year - was 32.4C (90F) in Gravesend, Kent. That followed national highs of 28C (82F) on Wednesday and 31C (88F) on Thursday, also at Gravesend.

The weekend promises slight relief, with forecasts by the London Weather Centre of possible thunderstorms and lower temperatures of 23-24C today and tomorrow.

London Ambulance Service announced that the volume of emergency calls it received rose 27 per cent above normal, to 2,818 from an average of 2,200.

"The 600 extra calls seem to be down to the weather," said a spokesman.

Eight teenage girls collapsed from heat exhaustion while participating in an athletic event and were taken to hospital in Walthamstow, London. They were recovering at Whipps Cross Hospital.

It was so hot that the rail system added one more excuse for late trains to its repertoire. Travellers on the Great Western line from Paddington station sweated out delays of up to an hour after train tracks expanded in the heat.

Forecast, page 24

## Student in fumes death was killed unlawfully

By PAUL WILKINSON

A STUDENT who died from carbon monoxide fumes from a gas boiler as she slept in her digs was unlawfully killed, an inquest jury decided yesterday.

Anne Brennan, 19, was found dead in her bedsit directly above the basement room where the boiler had been kept running by Graham Williams, the landlord, despite twice being condemned by British Gas engineers. Geoffrey Burt, the Durham Coroner, accused Mr Williams of a "cavalier" attitude towards safety and maintenance regulations.

The inquest had heard that police investigating the death in the house she shared with eight other students in Durham found gaps in the floorboards of Miss Brennan's room. Other occupants had complained to Mr Williams about fumes, and on the day she died one student was overcome and taken to hospital.

Health and Safety officials said Mr Williams had ignored two prohibition notices and other advice on ventilation in the property where Miss Brennan, a second-year English student at Durham University, died last October. It had been shutdown by technicians only to be discovered running again later.

After the hearing Detective Superintendent David Grey said he would be pressing for a prosecution.



The Queen at Paul McCartney's Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts

## McCartney gives Her Majesty a glimpse of fame

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE man in the smart grey suit and short haircut who welcomed the Queen to Liverpool yesterday was barely recognisable as the mop-topped pop idol who went to Buckingham Palace for his MBE in 1965, and put about the false rumour that he had smoked pot in the waiting room to calm his nerves.

Paul McCartney had returned to his home city, which gave birth to the Beatles, to conduct the Queen around his most treasured project, the conversion of his old secondary school, which he attended with George Harrison, into the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. The former Sixties rebel had himself been converted, leading students and staff in three cheers for the Queen after she formally opened the school.

McCartney last met the Queen 14 years ago when the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra played a concert of Beatles music at the Albert Hall. The Queen later became one of the first of more than 2,000 people who made a personal donation to help to establish the £15 million college.

When the Beatles had their first hit, she failed to succumb to the mania that reduced the entire teenage population to screaming, ecstatic jelly. Yesterday she saw 15 students performing in a contemporary dance studio, listened to one of the institute's own rock bands, The Salvation, perform one of its compositions,

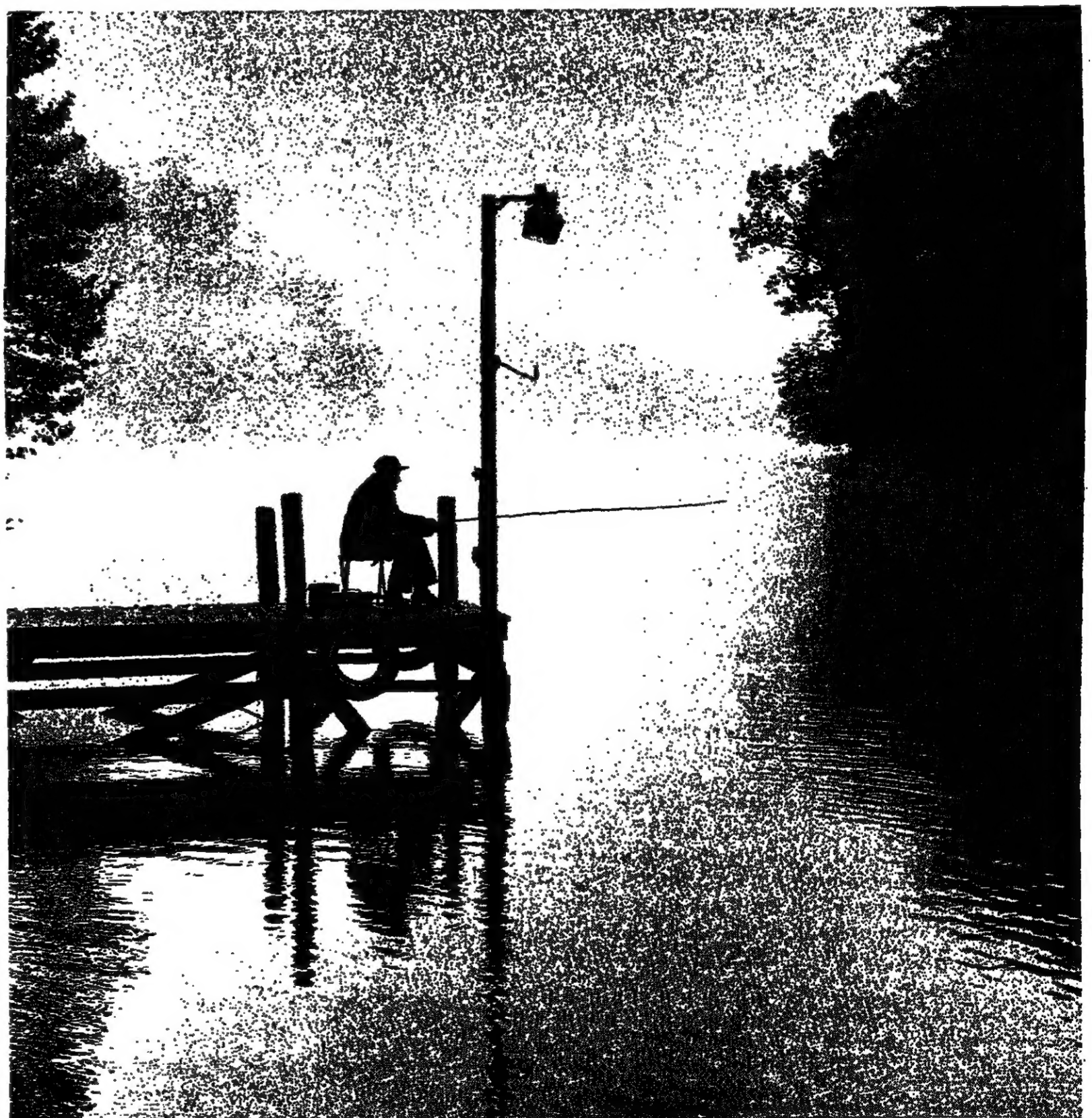


McCartney in 1965, the year he was made MBE

and listened to a student, Julie Thompson, 22, record a new song, *Perfect World*.

Later, in the Paul McCartney auditorium, monarch and founder listened to a choir sing a medley of Stephen Sondheim show-tunes, the Beatles' own song *Blackbird* from their White Album, and a song from the musical *Fame* entitled *I Feel The Body Electric*. The Queen then mounted the stage, but restricted herself to unveiling a plaque and signing the visitors' book.

"She was very impressed; she was very entertained by all of it," McCartney said later, brushing aside rumours that he would shortly be awarded a knighthood. "It's too embarrassing to think about, isn't it? I don't know anything about it," the 25th richest person in Britain said.



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## Golfers play with spy in the sky

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

CADDIES and their legendary advice are at risk from a course tipster with a somewhat wider view. Satellite navigation systems are being introduced to Britain as golfers' aids.

While many players might prefer the camaraderie of the traditional caddy with his local knowledge and distance-gauging skills, players in the United States are already putting their faith in cars with computerised, colour displays that resemble aircraft cockpits. The system pinpoints the location of the cart and the golfer before calculating the distance to the hole - and recommending the appropriate club. Trimble Navigation, which makes the devices based in Hook, Hampshire, said yesterday that the system also delivers tips on how to play the shot, and the location of hazards.

The aids are being tested on British links this summer. Peter Range, a spokesman for the company, pointed out another advantage: "Clubs want to use it to monitor slow play. If a cart has been out four hours and is only on the 12th hole, you can send a computer message."

Signals from 24 US military spacecraft are picked up by receivers which work out the location of the buggy relative to the clubhouse, to an accuracy of several centimetres.

David Rickman, rule secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in St Andrews, and the sport's governing body, said that the devices were not in line with rule 14-3, barring artificial devices and unusual equipment: "Unless the rules are abided by, a person is not really playing a round of golf."

Mr Range did not expect golfers to try to break rules during competitions, but said: "They can use satellite navigation systems and get measurements in advance of the competition."

It does not make a golfer more talented, of course. So the next development is for satellites to pinpoint lost balls.







# Football followers set big test for transport

By JONATHAN PRYNN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAIL and ferry companies will today put to the test up to two years of planning for Euro 96 as the first wave of an estimated 500,000 foreign fans arrives in England.

Security at Channel ports and the Eurotunnel terminal at Folkestone was being stepped up. All 2,150 British Transport Police officers and staff will be on duty throughout the three-week tournament. Hundreds of coaches from supporters' clubs

from as far away as Croatia will disgorge from ferries and Le Shuttle trains on to the roads of Kent, bound for the stadiums of the Midlands and the North.

The main ferry operators are demanding a £500 "good behaviour" bond from each coach and are avoiding taking bookings on the same ferry from supporters' clubs from different countries to avoid national clashes. The bookings are also being concentrated on the 75-minute Calais to Dover crossing to reduce the time that fans can spend

at the bar. "The whole policy is to stop any trouble happening in the first place," said a spokesman for P & O European Ferries.

If drunken supporters get out of control, the ship's crew will restrain them in secure metal cages used for storing duty free goods below the car deck goods, the spokesman said. Plastic handcuffs are not carried on ferries.

Rail operators will be laying on dozens of extra services to cope with the movement of one and a half million spectators expected at the

matches. Information on ticket sales from the Football Association has helped to identify the largest movements of spectators, a BR spokesman said.

"For example, there is a huge contingent of Italian supporters living in Buckinghamshire, where there was an Italian prisoner-of-war camp during the war. We have made sure that all trains serving the Italian games in Liverpool and Manchester will stop at Milton Keynes to allow the supporters to use connecting trains from places

like Leighton Buzzard." The unmanned halt of Alsager — the closest station to the Italian team training ground outside Stoke — is also expected to be the focus of intense Latin interest.

Eight major stations — London Euston, Birmingham New Street, Manchester Piccadilly, Leeds City, Liverpool Lime Street, Nottingham, Newcastle and Sheffield — will stay open all night on match days. Staff will turn a blind eye to fans "dossing" on the concourses, Mr Marshall said. On trains serving

match venues, inspectors have been told to waive penalties for fans without tickets. "What we are trying to do is make things as user-friendly as possible to take out of the equation situations that tend to lead to trouble," he said. "If we have to have bans on alcohol we will, but we really don't want to inconvenience our other non-football passengers. The main aim is to prevent trouble by stopping fans taking alcohol on to the trains in the first place."

Preview, pages 46-48  
1996 and all that, Magazine

## Soho declares a no-go zone for Euro 96

By RAGWALD MARTEL AND BILL FROST

THE West End of London, traditional mecca for football fans after a big game at Wembley, was battering the hatches last night and preparing to repel all Euro 96 boarders.

The prospect of a cash register bonanza has left pub landlords, restaurateurs and even the capital's ladies of the night seriously underwhelmed. All agreed that the risk of drunken violence far outweighed any financial benefit the tournament may yield.

Cards left by prostitutes in telephone boxes advertised their services but carried a warning in felt-tip pen: "No football fans (thank you)."

While a handful of Swiss supporters paraded on mineral water at the edge of Soho's clip-joint zone, peep show barons and strip-club proprietors were briefing bouncers that football fans were not to be allowed in.

At the Revue Bar in the heart of Soho, the huge man on the door said that the fans should look elsewhere for fun tonight. "I am not coming in myself, too much bother. But I've told my lads to keep them out — I don't want no violence or vomit in my club. Next week, when the Jocks come down, I am closing. So will all the other hostess bars."

The Metropolitan Police Euro 96 task force has already saturated Soho and the rest of the West End in anticipation of trouble tonight. However, the Swiss are not considered a high "violence potential" risk. "Let's face it, they are not exactly the most volatile

people in the world are they," a police source said. "However, the Dutch and the Germans are a different kettle of fish altogether."

Soho's finest will make no such careful distinction. A siege mentality is already in place. Norman Balon, landlord of the celebrated Coach and Horses pub, said: "My business booms every night and I certainly don't want that lot. It would be marvellous if for a change they stayed away from Soho."

Mr Balon, who describes himself as "London's rudest landlord", warned football supporters of any persuasion to steer clear. "I'll give them one drink if they are polite. If not, they are out — sharpish."

Noel Botham, landlord of the French House, agreed. He is operating a strict anti-football policy and has hired an extra doorman. He said he would be very pleased "not to make a penny" out of Euro 96.

The Sports Café, just off the Haymarket, is ready to welcome fans. However, all the tables were booked two and a half months ago and bouncers are on the touchline just in case of a pitch invasion.

At the Swiss Bistro, off Leicester Square, the away fans were puzzled by the fears their presence had aroused. One young woman draped in her national flag said that Britain was unwelcoming.

Her friend sipped mineral water and agreed: "We Swiss do not get drunk and wreck bars, go to peep shows or use prostitutes. Their worry is foolish and insulting."



Swiss fans in Leicester Square yesterday. They accused Britain of being unwelcoming to foreign supporters

## TV coverage outstrips World Cup

By ALEXANDRA FREAN  
AND JOHN GOODBODY

THE televising of Euro 96 will be the biggest outside broadcast for domestic television in more than a decade.

The championship will be televised in 194 countries, six more than took coverage of the 1994 World Cup in the United States. In Britain the tournament will receive more

than 100 hours of terrestrial television coverage. The ratings battle will pitch the BBC's team of Desmond Lynam, John Motson and

Jimmy Hill against ITV's Bob Wilson, Brian Moore and Ron Atkinson.

ITV has also signed the unlikely double act of Alex Ferguson, manager of Manchester United, and Kevin Keegan, manager of Newcastle United, to provide analysis. Other members of its team include Glean Hoddle, John Barnes, Jack Charlton and Ian St John.

The BBC's most exotic signing is Roud Gullit, Chelsea's player-manager who used to inspire the Dutch. Gary Lineker will make his

debut as a main television presenter. Other members of the BBC squad include the commentator Barry Davies and David Pleat, the Sheffield Wednesday manager.

Although the two channels are alternating their coverage of matches in the early stages of the competition, they will be going head-to-head later on. They will be co-operating, however, as the host broadcasters for the rest of the world, providing the television facilities and personnel to help 4,000 foreign commentators and technical

staff. There will be a minimum of 17 cameras at each of the eight grounds staging matches to meet the increasingly sophisticated demands of television viewers.

The BBC has been accused of being anti-patriotic in choosing Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* as its theme tune. In a neat twist, the German broadcaster ZDF has chosen *Don't Look Back in Anger* by the football-loving Britpop band from Manchester, Oasis, to herald its coverage. ITV is playing it safe with Sir Hubert Parry's *Jerusalem*.

## Referees put their faith in a Tornado

By RUSSELL JENKINS

TRADITIONALISTS may swear by the Acme Thunderer but the world's top referees are likely to be blowing the more sophisticated Acme Tornado whistle during Euro 96.

Its high-pitched tone, created by three harmonically tuned chambers rather than the traditional pea, is capable of cutting through the noisiest supporters' chants to deliver its sharp message to players.

Gazza and his team-mates will be dancing to its 110-decibel tune during the tournament. That is good news for its Birmingham-based manufacturer, J. Hudson and Co, and its 53 employees.

The company, which produces four million whistles every year for 137 countries, has been the world market leader since 1870 when its founder, Joseph Hudson, sold the idea of the penny whistle to the police.

From patrolling Victorian London to controlling soccer matches was a short step. Within eight years Hudson had persuaded the referee in a Nottingham Forest game that it was better to blow a whistle than to wave his hanky.

Legend has it that Hudson struck upon the ideal tone for his whistle as he played the violin in his back-to-back in the Ladywell district of Birmingham.

The violin fell from his grasp and hit the floor, breaking the strings and letting forth a "dying breath from the bowels" of the instrument. Simon Topman, the present managing director, said: "He thought, 'That is the sound I want'."

### THE TIMES ON MONDAY



### Top writers on the family

Starting on Monday, *The Times* celebrates family life in modern Britain.

In a new series, *Family Life, Personality Speaking*, read Bel Mooney on the joy of family, Libby Purves on the dangers when parents lose touch with their children and Magnus Linklater on a manic depressive son. On Tuesday Valerie Grove writes in praise of teenagers, Alice Thomas Ellis on sibling rivalry and Jean Wyndham on the effects on children when a father walks out.



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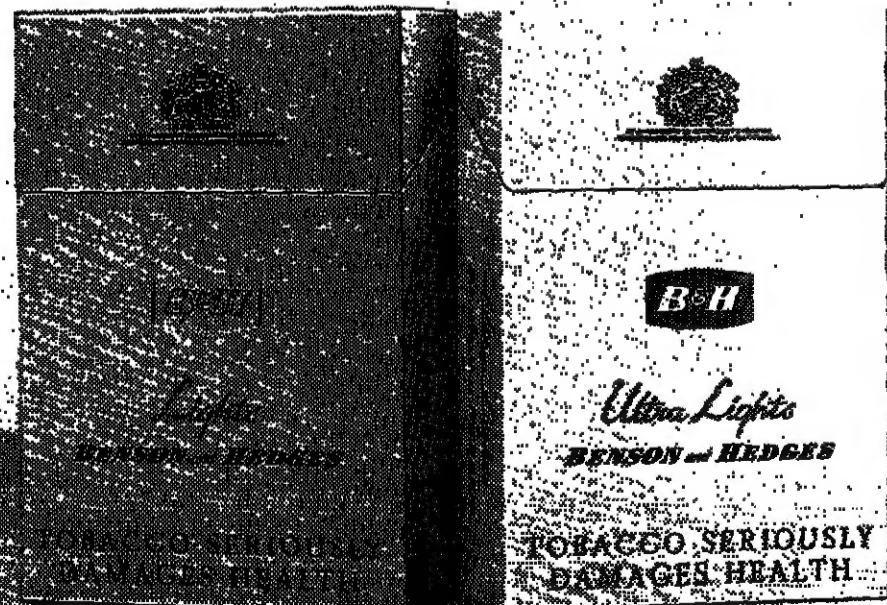
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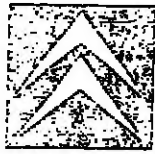
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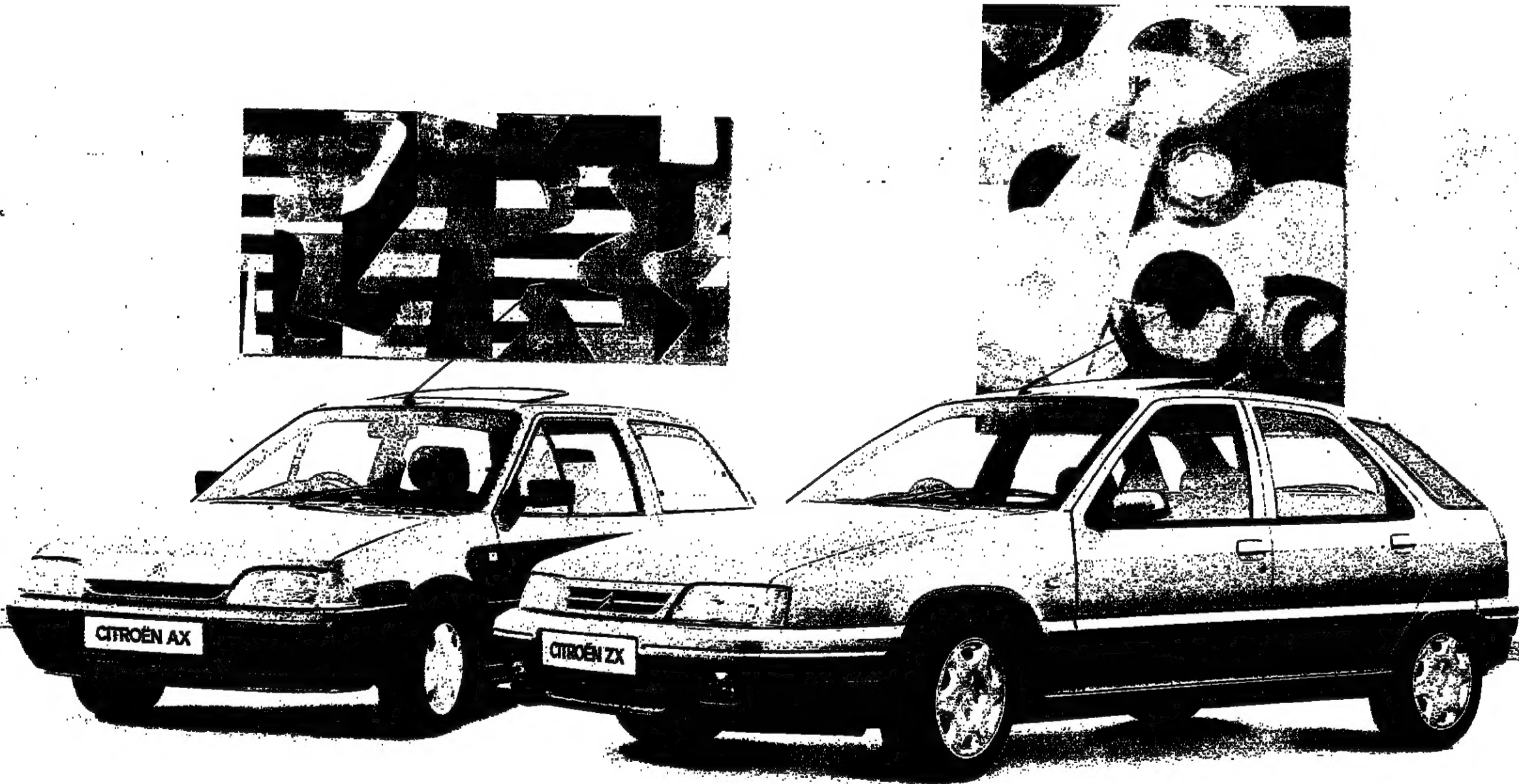
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THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 8 1996

# Cliff rescue helicopter hovers 10ft from gorge

By Emma Wilkins

AN RAF helicopter crew rescued a woman from deep inside Cheddar Gorge after the pilot flew within feet of the cliff face in darkness. In a three-hour mission Flight Lieutenant Mark Dennis, 35, flew 100ft down into the gorge and held his position with the tip of the craft's blades just 10ft from the side.

As the helicopter hovered, an RAF winchman was lowered 200ft down — close to the maximum winch extension of 250ft — to pull the 22-year-old woman to safety.

The scene of the rescue was illuminated by the searchlights of a police helicopter, which held its position above the RAF Sea King.

"It was a very difficult operation," said Flight Lieutenant Dennis, from Brighton. "The gorge is very narrow and steep-sided and we usually keep well away from it. Normally in helicopter rescues we have the sea on one side but this time we were in a totally confined space."

"I kept a close watch out of the right side of the helicopter and the other pilot out of the left as the rotor blades were just 10ft from the cliff sides."

"It was unusual to have another aircraft working alongside but it was a great success," he added.

The rescue began just after 9pm on Thursday when a woman telephoned Avon and Somerset police to say a woman had fallen down the cliff face. Officers called to the scene were able to hear the woman shouting but could not see her because it was dark.

A police helicopter with thermal-imaging equipment was sent to the gorge where the crew located the woman. The helicopter does not have a winch so the Sea King was

called from RAF Chivenor. Volunteers from the Avon and Cheddar cliff rescue team scrambled down the cliff to a ledge, which they used as a base to help direct operations. It was impossible to lift the woman up the cliff face because she was suffering from a broken arm and fractured ribs.

A spokesman for Avon and Somerset police said: "It was a complex operation because it was at night and the helicopter had to fly close to the cliffs."

"It can be quite tricky having two helicopters hovering in tandem. The operation relied very much on the skill of the pilots."

The woman, who has not been named, was flown to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, where she was in a satisfactory condition yesterday.

Passengers were evacuated from a Laker Airways DC10 bound for Orlando, Florida, yesterday when flames shot from the exhaust of a rear engine as it was preparing to take off from Manchester.

The aircraft was being pushed back from its stand when the incident happened. The flames were seen by the pilot of an Air Canada jet, who alerted air traffic control. But the Laker pilot had already activated his automatic fire extinguishers.

The DC10 was then towed away from the main airport building and the 72 passengers were taken off. Airport officials insisted it was not an emergency evacuation.

A Laker spokesman said: "As one of the wing engines was being started, a dollop of unburnt fuel went through and the vapour was ignited. The fire would have burnt itself out and there was no danger to aircraft or passengers."



Doreen Hayes waits for the verdict during the inspection by councillors yesterday. They chose to ignore advice that it should be destroyed

## Garden in a bog survives planners' wrath

By Russell Jenkins

A WOMAN who spent ten years transforming an acre of bog land into a showpiece garden won her battle to prevent it from being ploughed back into farmland yesterday.

Doreen Hayes, 60, was told by East Devon council that she had breached regulations when she cultivated the

garden in Branscombe without planning permission.

After a lengthy site visit, councillors granted permission for the change of use by five votes to one on condition that she does not develop it any further. Ms Hayes, who had sobbed throughout the debate, said: "I am overjoyed it has gone through. I am quite happy with the condition they

have imposed because I never intended to do anything more."

The garden contains thousands of flowers, four ponds, wildfowl and doves. The controversy arose when an occasional resident complained to the council that the garden had been developed on a plot still classed as agricultural land.

Ms Hayes, a former air hostess,

claimed that the authority knew about her project soon after she bought the land. "A man from East Devon council came along to have a look, but did not mention planning permission," she said.

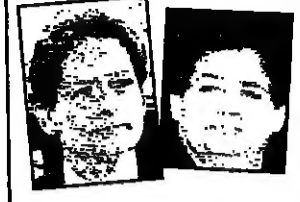
She applied for planning permission after the complaint but officials recommended refusal, saying the garden was an intrusive feature.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

### THE LAWSON DIET

When I first met Nigel he was 44, feisty and fat. Later I got the hang of the way he organised his life, which was, in essence, based on set meal times...

Therese Lawson



The principal drawback to dieting is financial. I lost 12in around the waist and 2in around the neck. So there is nothing for it but to buy a whole new set of clothes...

Nigel Lawson

The lean times of Nigel Lawson, plus the recipes that helped him to achieve them — in style. The Sunday Times tomorrow

### FLOODLIT RESCUE

Police helicopter called to Cheddar Gorge. Locates woman using thermal imaging camera.

1. Police helicopter called to Cheddar Gorge. Locates woman using thermal imaging camera.

2. Mountain rescue team abseils down to give first aid.

3. FR Lt Mark Dennis hovers ten feet from cliff face to lower winch-man to ledge.

200 feet

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# Teachers and MPs attack Blair's school reforms

By Jill Sherman and David Charter

TONY BLAIR provoked a backlash from teachers, unions and leftwing MPs yesterday after declaring that a Labour government would abolish mixed-ability teaching in comprehensive schools.

In a speech in Oxfordshire Mr Blair outlined his vision of a reformed comprehensive education where children of similar ability would be taught in sets for specific subjects. But head teachers said that schools would resist pressure from a Labour government to force more grouping of children by ability.

The Secondary Heads Association said comprehensive schools already used ability sets where it was felt beneficial and practical.

John Dunford, president of the association, predicted that schools would ignore the imposition of more setting. He said: "It is a total nonsense that the Labour Party should try to tell us how to organise our schools. We don't want to be told by either John Major or Tony Blair how to organise our schools internally. It has to be a professional decision

made by head teachers and governors based on local circumstances."

At present several schools divide children into sets for mathematics, science and modern languages, particularly for older pupils.

But Mr Blair said setting should be extended to subjects such as history and English, which are less easy to measure, and should be introduced at an earlier age. His aides argued that setting should be applied across the board where possible, with the exception of subjects such as physical education.

In his speech at Didcot Girls School, Mr Blair reaffirmed Labour's commitment to the comprehensive system but argued that standards could only be improved by ditching mixed-ability teaching. "Not to take account of the obvious common sense that different children move at different speeds and have differing abilities is to give idealism a bad name," he said.

"The modernisation of the comprehensive principle requires that all pupils are

encouraged to progress as far and as fast as they are able. Grouping children according to ability can be an important way of making that happen."

Mr Blair insisted that he was not advocating a return to the 11-plus system but he angered teachers and unions by suggesting that a Labour government would take steps to ensure that setting was increased in the state system. Mr Blair indicated that that could be done by a number of "policy levers".

These included financial incentives, a more rigorous inspection procedure, changes in the national curriculum and by using Labour's new teaching grade, the Advanced Skills Teacher, to promote "a third way between the limitations of the 11-plus and mixed-ability teaching".

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, welcomed Mr Blair's commitment to comprehensive education but added: "High expectations of all pupils could be undermined by a nationally imposed approach. In small schools and

many primary schools, teachers must teach a wide range of abilities. They have no choice. Resources permit no other approach."

Labour leftwingers also expressed their concern about the latest move. Alan Simpson, secretary of the leftwing Campaign group, said: "I think it would be foolish to lurch from mixed-ability teaching to across-the-board setting." He believed that less bright children could be disadvantaged and urged Labour to spend more to help them.

One leftwinger argued that Mr Blair's latest speech was a "loyalty test" designed to see how far the party could be pushed to the right. "I am in utter despair. There is now little distinction between us and the Conservatives," he said.

In his speech Mr Blair said: "Comprehensive schools have not yet, in Harold Wilson's words, universalised what was good about grammar schools: high standards and a ladder up for bright children from poor families or deprived backgrounds."



Nick Corke stands at the doorway of a cottage, smaller than many people's living rooms, that he has sold for £30,000 (Russell Jenkins writes). The timber-framed Saddlemakers Cottage, for which the term *bijou* might have been coined, is in the Suffolk village of Framlingham. It consists of a 9ft by

## Window on the world

9ft living room, a shower room, kitchenette and loft conversion big enough for a small person and mattress. It has a single window. Mr Corke is a builder who, at 6ft 5in, stands more than a foot taller than the front door.

The cottage, along one of the village's most popular streets, has been a cobbler's, antique shop and boutique and saddlery. Less appealingly, the spot was once a dumping ground for chamber pots. Mr Corke, 39, acknowledged it

would not suit a family. "While it might not be everyone's cup of tea, it is a one-off. It would make a wonderful bachelor pad," he said. Pat Dorsey, of Abbots, the estate agent handling the sale, said: "It is very sweet, just like a little nest." The new owner, who has a girlfriend living next door, is said to be short.

## Ministers accused of cynical tactics on disabled vote

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

BACKBENCHERS on both sides of the House accused ministers last night of using cynical and manipulative tactics to try to avoid a defeat in the Commons over the disabled next week.

Labour and Tory backbenchers are furious that the Government is trying to scupper a vote on whether disabled people over 65 should receive a special cash grant. They have appealed to the Prime Minister as a former Minister for the Disabled, because Monday, the date for the vote on the Community Care (Direct Payments) Bill, will see the Commons heavily depleted.

The Ulster Unionists will be attending the first day's proceedings of the new Northern Ireland forum and Scottish MPs will be at the Scottish Grand Committee meeting in Scotland.

The Bill allows local authorities to make direct payments to disabled people who accept them in lieu of community care services. But people over 65, about 650,000, have been excluded.

Several Tory MPs have privately said they will rebel and one Tory MP, Sir Andrew Bowden, the chairman of the all-party parliamentary pensioners group, has publicly

said he will vote against the Government unless it offers to remove the age barrier in 12 months.

The Government has already been defeated on excluding those with HIV and learning difficulties. But although Mr Major only has a majority of one, he should just scrape through if the Labour Scottish MPs are away.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, is thought to be the stumbling block to a change. He has been told by civil servants that, if the over 65s were allowed to join the scheme, local authorities would be swamped with applications. Age Concern, among others, rejects this.

Alf Morris, who was the first Minister for the Disabled for Labour, has written to Mr Major asking him to act. "This is a blatant act of discrimination against the old and disabled," he said.

"If Northern Ireland MPs and Scottish MPs could be present at this division, there is little doubt that the Government would be defeated. What is happening now would make Machiavelli and Tannum Hall deeply ashamed."

Downing Street said last night it was considering its reply to the letter.

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# Birt promises to lead BBC into the next millennium

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JOHN BIRT, the BBC Director-General, announced yesterday that he is to stay at the corporation until 2000, quashing speculation that he might leave at the end of his five-year contract next year.

Mr Birt was unveiling a reorganisation of the BBC that will fully separate programme-making from its broadcasting role. He also announced a series of senior management changes.

Matthew Bannister, the controller of Radio 1, will become director of radio, in charge of all the BBC's radio output and filling the shoes of Liz Forgan, who resigned as managing director of network radio in April. Mr Bannister, who has successfully modernised Radio 1's "Smashie and Nickey" image of dated DJs, will combine his new role with his existing post.

Michael Green, controller of Radio 4, is to leave the BBC. Mr Green oversaw a number of hotly debated changes at Radio 4, including moving *Woman's Hour* to the mornings and introducing *Anderson Country*, which was dropped after a wave of protests. He said yesterday that he had wanted to leave the BBC for some months, but had agreed to stand in for Ms Forgan.

Mr Birt, at present earning £265,000 a year, said he was

honoured to continue leading the BBC into 2000, but would not reveal how much he would be paid for the task. He said that the restructuring was intended to streamline the corporation and help it to reduce costs by 20 per cent over five years. There were bound to be job losses.

Mr Birt added that the changes, which also include the creation of a single national and international news operation, would help the BBC to meet the challenge of introducing digital broadcasting.

He conceded, however, that the changes would represent a second big upheaval at the BBC, which introduced

sweeping management reforms three years ago under Producer Choice. These cut the workforce by 5,000 to 20,000.

Uncertainty hangs over the future of Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1. He is expected to take one of two newly created positions: director of television or director of programmes.

Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC Television, will become chief executive of BBC Broadcasting and BBC Radio will lose its separate identity. It will be subsumed into the broadcasting division — a move seen by many as downgrading its status.

Jocelyn Hay of the consumer group, the Voice of the Listener and Viewer, said she was concerned that radio would no longer be represented individually on the BBC's top decision-making board. "This diminishes the rights of the radio audience. There is also a concern about the increasing emphasis on the commercial viability of programmes," she said.

John Tusa, former head of the BBC World Service and now managing director of the Barbican centre, said he was worried about the way the restructuring appeared to bring World Service radio more closely under the responsibility of the domestic services.



Bannister: successfully modernised Radio 1



John Birt, right, with BBC executives, introducing the reforms yesterday

# Family tells how Glyn Worsnip joked to the end

By LIN JENKINS

FRIENDS and colleagues of the former *That's Life* presenter Glyn Worsnip paid tribute yesterday after his death from a crippling brain disease. Worsnip, 57, spent nine years battling against cerebellar ataxia, which had cut short his career by affecting his movement and speech.

Esther Rantzen, who worked with him on the BBC television consumer programme, said: "All Glyn's friends will treasure their memories of his brilliance and his enduring courage."

Radio provided an outlet for his talents in the early days of his illness. When he found all broadcasting impossible, he turned to programme research, wrote his autobiography, *Up the Down Escalator*, and had a newspaper column. In 1991, when he was wheelchair-bound, he moved into a home for the disabled after he felt he had become a burden on Jo and Elinor, his wife and daughter.

Mrs Worsnip and his friend David Goodland were at his bedside when he died. His brother Hugh said: "He kept on laughing and joking right to the end. He could hardly speak but he was still trying to crack jokes."

"He did complain from time to time and in his darkest moments he talked about ending it all. But he always clung on to life because he enjoyed it so much. He was an astonishingly courageous man and that is how everyone will



Worsnip: TV career cut short by brain disease

remember him." Rantzen, who worked with Worsnip for the eight years after he joined *That's Life* in 1976, said that he was one of the programme's most popular presenters. "His sharp sense of humour, wickied ear for mimicry and enormous charm delighted our viewers."

"One of his last programmes was a deeply moving and illuminating edition of *Horizon* about the ignorance surrounding illnesses like his affecting the brain."

She first met him when she was at Oxford University: "I brought him into *That's Life* because I knew his talent and I loved his company."

"His picture is on my office wall. My thoughts and deepest sympathies are with his family."

Obituary, page 23

# Dean casts light on royal Christmas

By EMMA WILKINS AND JOHN VINCENT

A LETTER revealing the unique strains of being a guest at a royal house party in the 1920s is to be auctioned next week.

The Dean of St Albans, the Very Rev Edward Henderson, was staying with George V and Queen Mary at Sandringham for Christmas in 1927 when he wrote home to his wife Sybil. His main worries were that the Queen would find his sermon boring and that he should remember how to pronounce Ma'am, to rhyme with jam.

The letter begins with an account of a tea party at which Princess Elizabeth, then 20 months, impressed with her good manners. "Tea in the hall. The Queen

poured out and just when we had finished in came Princess Elizabeth, really charming indeed, and the King played with her all the time. She isn't spoilt one little bit, but sits up in her chair as straight as a die. The Queen smokes after every meal. It's all too killing and I am still finding it hard to believe I shan't (sic) wake up somewhere else.

"I've signed the K's and Q's visitors' book without making blots or writing in the wrong place, and I didn't cut myself shaving this morning — my word, I was careful... We had Evenson and Carols and I had to sit in the front pew with the Q but I am beyond feeling now, and say yes MAM and no MAM and you pronounce it just like that and don't forget it." Queen Mary had forgotten to take

any pennies for the collection and had to borrow some from a lady-in-waiting. "The Queen didn't know there was a collection and hadn't taken any money! Horror! Fortunately I had some as Lady Katherine was stung too."

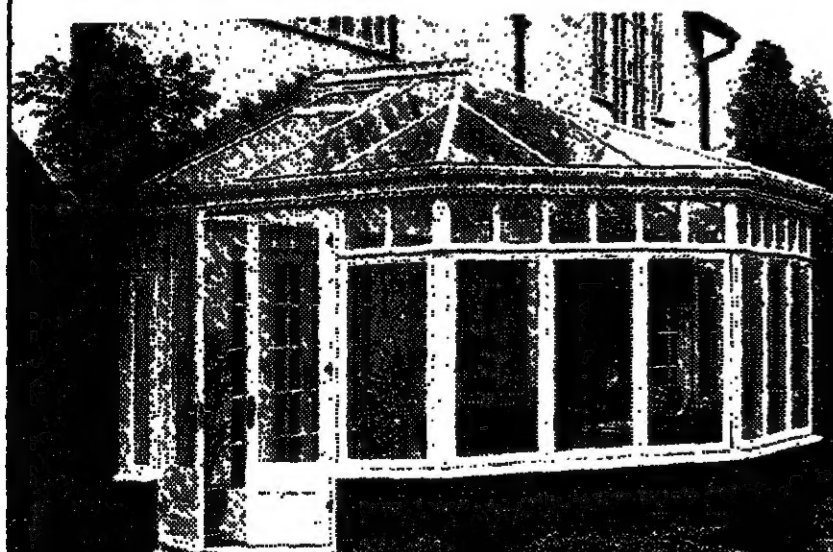
The dean was given a doll by the Queen for his six-year-old daughter Jo, which is being sold with the letter by Phillips in Edinburgh. His daughter, now Mrs Richardson, 75, remembers writing a thank-you letter beginning "Dear Queen". She said: "The doll itself is a pretty little thing, not really very interesting. But it came from the Queen and I never forgot that."

The doll, made by Simon and Halbig, has a brown mohair wig and brown eyes. It and the letter are expected to fetch £250.

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# Police chief defends gun licence for Hamilton

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE senior police officer who rejected a call to withdraw Thomas Hamilton's firearms certificate defended his decision yesterday at the Dunblane massacre inquiry.

John Millar, a former detective superintendent, said that he believed one of his juniors had exaggerated when describing Hamilton as a scheming, devious and deceitful man who should not be trusted with guns.

Mr Millar, 57, attached a handwritten memo to Detective Sergeant Paul Hughes's report, made five years before the killings, saying that he could not recommend revoking the certificate. He said the final decision was taken by his superior, Deputy Chief Constable Douglas McMurdo, now Assistant Chief Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland.

Mr Millar, who is retired, told the inquiry at Stirling that Hamilton could still have committed the murders if the decision had been different. "If his certificate had been refused and the guns taken away from him, and he still felt the way he did at the time of the terrible tragedy, there is no doubt in my mind that he could still have got possession of guns."

In 1991 Sergeant Hughes, a child protection officer, inves-

tigated parents' allegations of assault, lack of supervision and improper photographs at one of Hamilton's summer camps. The detective suspected the youth club leader was a paedophile with latent violent tendencies. Mr Millar told the inquiry that there was no mention of guns in the complaints against Hamilton.

"He had often been described as an oddball and there was innuendo that he had a particular liking for young boys, but there had been no proceedings against him because there was not sufficient evidence," he said. Mr Millar, who had not met Hamilton, thought that "the wording from Sergeant Hughes possibly was exaggerated from the evidence that he had".

Laura Dunlop, counsel for the families, asked if he had thought about preventive measures. "In hindsight there possibly should have been. There was not at the time," he said.

The inquiry was shown video clips of boys exercising at Hamilton's youth clubs and summer camps. Public television monitors in the hall were turned off and the excerpts were seen only by Lord Cullen, chairman of the inquiry, and lawyers. The sound was switched off to avoid distress to relatives.

One clip showed a ten-year-old blond boy in red shorts, naked from the waist up, performing strenuous exercises. He was filmed from different angles. Other scenes showed boys performing head-over-heels rolls.

A mother said that she reported Hamilton to police and local education authorities in 1991 after he gave her a video of his camps. She was disturbed to see the camera panning along a row of boys wearing shorts and back again. She found the video "questionable", passed it to police and withdrew her son from the club.



Millar: thought officer's warning "exaggerated"



The owl and the pussycats: Robin disdainfully ignores attempts to grab the leftover chicken: below, Sergeant Bell and his prize catch

## Roast chicken dinner lures eagle owl into garden trap

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN ESCAPED and hungry eagle owl which had been swooping on the residents of a town in Co Durham has finally been trapped by the dedication of a housewife and a police wildlife expert.

The female owl, with a 6ft wingspan, had the people of Shotley Bridge scrambling for cover as it plunged from the night sky with its talons outstretched. Three residents had clothes torn as the owl, which they nicknamed Robin, tried to land on them and several vowed not to take their dogs out at night.

But police wildlife experts assured people there was no need for panic, emphasising that the owl was probably hungry. The bird had been ignoring staple eagle owl food such as dead chickens and

rabbits and has been pinching bacon butties and even freshly roasted chickens.

It was finally trapped by a square-framed net built by Sergeant Eddie Bell and Elizabeth Geddes, a householder. They lured it at an angle to the ground, baited with a roast chicken. A piece of string, held by Mrs Geddes from her bedroom, was attached to the top of the frame.

Sergeant Bell and Mrs Geddes waited an hour and a half for the familiar beating of mighty wings before the sergeant's patience ran out. Only Mrs Geddes witnessed the moment Robin was snared.

For Sergeant Bell, the Durham force's wildlife liaison officer, catching the bird became a personal mission. He said: "After the swan and

golden eagle it's probably the biggest bird you'll see in Britain. One or two people have been left marked with a few scratches. I'm sure its intentions are well-meaning, but it weighs about 7lb and if it hits you with its talons at a speed of 40mph then it will leave a scratch or two.

"The locals have grown very fond of her. They loved to see her circling the rooftops. I will keep hold of her until an owner comes forward. If that doesn't happen she will be well looked after at my home. I must hand it to Elizabeth, she showed great determination. Thanks to her Robin is safe and won't go hungry."

The eagle owl's usual habitat is northern Europe. Robin must have escaped from a private collection.



## Bailiffs net Charlton the angler

Jack Charlton is to be prosecuted for fishing without a £15 rod licence, the Environment Agency confirmed yesterday. Mr Charlton, 60, was challenged by water bailiffs during his first outing of the fishing season at Whittle Dene reservoir, near his home in Northumberland. The case is due to go before Hexham magistrates on June 25. Mr Charlton, who has since bought a licence, has said that he will plead guilty by letter.

## Titanic order

Welin Lambie, the West Midlands engineering firm that made the lifeboat-launching equipment on the *Titanic*, has received a £250,000 order for identical cast-iron davits, to be used in a Hollywood film about the disaster.

## Trains collide

Four people were slightly injured when two trains collided at Newcastle upon Tyne Central Station. Both trains were travelling at less than 20mph and neither was damaged. Rail services were disrupted until the afternoon.

## Worker crushed

A Rover maintenance engineer, Colin Buckland, 47, was crushed under a five-ton machine, which he was trying to dismantle himself to save costs, an Oxford inquest was told. Verdict: accident.

## Conran divorce

The 33-year marriage of the designer Sir Terence Conran, 64, and Caroline, 56, a journalist, was ended in the London divorce courts. Lady Conran was granted an uncontested decree nisi.

## Fire strikes off

Essex fire crews called off three nine-hour strikes over £1.3 million budget cuts. The first had been due on Monday. The county council has offered to recruit 40 more firefighters this year at a cost of £600,000.

## Beds of nails

Council gardeners in Bournemouth have been forced to nail plant roots into the ground to stop an outbreak of shrub thefts in the resort's parks. One flowerbed was cleared of 50 azaleas.

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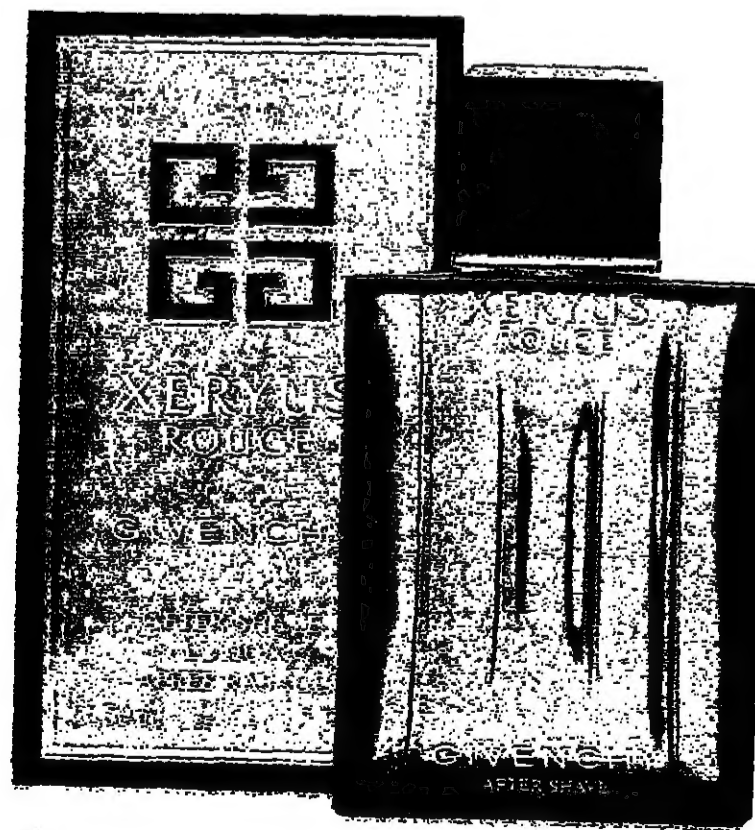
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# Carey's evangelical adviser once gave his wife a black eye

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE senior evangelical adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury once had a violent relationship with his wife. It has been disclosed. At one point, the marriage of Canon Michael Green became so heated that he suffered a broken tooth and Rosemary Green went to a vestry meeting with a black eye.

The couple, who are close friends of Dr George Carey and his wife, sought counselling because they knew that a divorce would end Canon Green's credibility as an evangelist. Their marriage had since been "gloriously sorted out", he said.

In the latest issue of the *Anglican Journal*, the newspaper of the Anglican Church of Canada, where Canon Green taught for five years, the couple describe how their marriage appeared likely to disintegrate under the pressures of work. He said that his regular overseas tours when rector of St Aldate's, Oxford, in the late 1970s distanced him from his wife, who had "a very violent temper".

They were married in 1957, the year he was ordained, and their first three years were good. That changed after the birth of their first child and his transfer to the London College

of Divinity, now St John's College in Nottingham.

When he was at St Aldate's, where he achieved near-cult status among student Christians, the couple experienced "a period of considerable difficulty". Canon Green, who was at a conference with his wife in Lancashire yesterday, said: "There was violence there. I would not initiate it, but I would respond to it. It doesn't fill me

## Why Worlock was told to go

Derek Worlock was once ordered out of Lambeth Palace by an Archbishop of Canterbury with the words: "Get out of here! You Roman Catholics have no rights here." The junior priest who was to become Archbishop of Liverpool, and who died in February, had upset the Most Rev Geoffrey Fisher, archbishop for 1945-1961, by bringing an "unwelcome message" from his Catholic counterpart. Dr George Carey, the present Archbishop of Canterbury, told the story yesterday at a conference to illustrate the "magnificent strides" in ecumenism since then.

with any sense of pride at all. I shouldn't have done that."

Mrs Green, 64, whose pastoral skills are highly regarded in the Church, said her first year at Oxford was hard and she felt an explosion of anger towards her husband. Friends encouraged them to seek counselling and she accepted that her attitude of "because I've been hurt, I have a right to be angry" was not healthy. She recalled the time as "pushing away a heavy black lid so the Holy Spirit could go deep down into the past hurts and, painful though it was, bring healing".

In 1987 they moved to Vancouver for five years, and in 1992 were invited back to England by Dr Carey to head his evangelism initiative, Springboard, with the Right Rev Michael Marshall. In an interview with the *Church Times*, Canon Green said that he and his wife were stronger for their experience. "If anyone thinks we have a dodgy marriage now, they don't know us," he said. Their marital difficulties became public when Mrs Green mentioned them during a course she was leading in Canada.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 15



Anne Peat, one of the three women among the 30 preachers on the shortlist

# Shortlist chosen from more than 250 preachers

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THIRTY preachers, including three women and one Salvation Army captain, have been shortlisted for the second Preacher of the Year award, organised by the College of Preachers and sponsored by *The Times*.

The preachers, chosen from more than 250 entries, also include six lay preachers. The 30 semi-finalists are of a wider ecumenical mix than last year, although most are again male Anglican clergy. Four of those shortlisted — the Rev William Alford, the Rev Alex Gunn, Ian Knox and Canon John Young — were shortlisted last year. Over the summer the 30 will be visited in their churches and chapels by judges.

Five finalists will be announced in September, to take part in the final of the contest at Southwark Cathedral, London, on Wednesday, October 30, when entry will be free to all.

The 30 shortlisted sermons will be published in *The Times Book of Best Sermons* (Cassell), and the winner will receive a specially commissioned sculpture of a dove, representing the Holy Spirit.

The 30 finalists are: The Rev William Alford, Armagh; Fr Bill Anderson, Aberdeen; the Rev Mark Ashcroft, Manchester; Dr

Alan Billings, Kendal, Cumbria; the Rev Mark Branton, W Ealing, London; the Rev Chris Burket, Northwich, Cheshire; Canon Nicholas Bury, Broadstairs, Kent; the Rev John Cook, Edinburgh; the Rev David Dickinson, Northwood, London; the Rev Richard Freeman, Eynsford, Kent; the Rev Alex Gunn, Aberfeldy, Tayside; the Rev David Heywood, Warlingham, Surrey; the Rev Jean Holyhead, High Wycombe, Bucks; Margaret Holyoake, Halesowen, W Midlands; Stuart Jenkins, Cheadle Hulme; Dr Arnold Kellett, Knaresborough, N Yorks; Ian Knox, Coventry; Peter Mark, Penarth, S Glam; the Rev David McLachlan, Elderslie, Strathclyde; Dr Michael Morphy, Luddenden, W Yorks; Anne Peat, Rickmansworth, Herts; Michael Pritchard, Purley, Surrey; Capt Graham Rogers, Middlesbrough; the Rev Justyn Terry, Hyde Park, London; the Rev Bernard Thomas, Maesteg, Mid Glam; the Rev John Thompson, Dore, Sheffield; the Rev Frank Tozer, Eastbourne; the Rev C.R. Williamson, Aberdargie, Tayside; Canon Ronald Wynne, Minchinhampton, Glos; Canon John Young, York.



# The joy of helping others to succeed

Clive Calver

THE disciples of Jesus once argued heatedly over which one of them would be the greatest. In reply, Jesus made the outrageous claim that "he who is the least among you — he is the greatest" (Luke ix, 48).

The statement remains astonishing today. In our climate of ferocious competition, whether in the Olympic stadium or the boardroom, we are teaching our generation how to be winners. Should England fans witness their team losing to the Swiss this afternoon, is there a remote chance that they might feel some pleasure at the success of a nation to whom we passed the game?

The suggestion that we can succeed and find fulfilment through the progress and achievement of others is anathema in our culture of individualism. To rejoice in the accomplishments of someone else involves that most testing of Christian disciplines — loving our neighbour as ourselves.

Amid the cut-throat competition of the workplace, how many of us celebrate and take pride when colleagues to whom we have passed skills suddenly surpass our own achievements? To be confident and secure enough to enjoy a sense of corporate fulfilment is appealing, yet so difficult to attain. A threat to our self-esteem, envy and even bitterness can sour the liberation that is undoubtedly to be found in releasing others into their full potential. In the

New Testament, Barnabas, the leader of the disciples in Jerusalem — whose name means "son of encouragement" — typifies the potential selflessness that Christ seeks from his followers.

When the recently converted Paul arrived in the city, he was shunned by disciples who were mistrustful of the former tyrant. Barnabas stood up for Paul when no one else would, and subsequently stepped aside to let Paul assume leadership.

Later, it was Barnabas who spotted the potential in the disciple John Mark, forgave his past failure and picked him up after Paul had lost patience with him. Paul wrote up to 13 epistles and Mark contributed a gospel. But without the selflessness of Barnabas, we might have only one half of today's New Testament.

Such self-sacrifice lies at the heart of the Christian message, whether it is the Catholic priest Maximilian Kolbe taking the place of a Jewish woman in the line-up for the gas chamber, or ourselves conveying dignity upon others by putting them first in our daily living.

Christ calls us to exchange our self-centred life for one that is lived not in our own strength, but through His spirit in us. In so doing, we are invited to lay down our lives daily for others in the home and in the workplace. □ The Rev Clive Calver is the Director General of the Evangelical Alliance UK.

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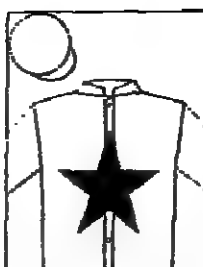
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HEADQUARTERS  
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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JUNE 8 1996

## Overcharging by British Gas alarms watchdog

BRITISH GAS is investigating how hundreds of customers in the South West were heavily overcharged after switching to new suppliers. Some consumers claim to have been overcharged by as much as £350 in their final quarterly bill.

Huge irregularities in bills have been revealed in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, where 500,000 households are now able to shop around for gas, with hundreds of customers wrongly charged by direct debit. The average overcharge in cases being investigated by the Gas Consumers' Council is £160.

The GCC is investigating 59 cases of over-

charging, although the central office says the problem is likely to be much bigger. British Gas has halted direct debits for customers who are leaving its supply and is going through all final account bills delivered to the 40,000 households that have switched supply. It has also found cases of customers who were undercharged.

John Kemp, of Newton Abbot, received a £500 bill, nearly ten times more than usual. He said: "I opened the bill and could not believe my eyes. I thought we must have a gas leak. My wife was just going into labour. It was absolute chaos." The problem exposes a serious breakdown in the system, raising questions about

how the trial will be extended to other regions as part of the Government's aim to establish a competitive market in domestic gas nationwide.

At present, the alternative supplier must provide a meter reading to British Gas through British Gas Transco, the British Gas pipeline business that carries all gas. Customers are then billed by British Gas Trading, the domestic gas supply arm, based on the information received. BGT was legally obliged to issue bills on the information that reached them.

A spokesman for BGT said: "We have absolutely no way of checking the accuracy of that information, which comes from other

suppliers, through Transco, and arrives on our doorstep. We do not even know, because of the system, who the supplier is, because we are not allowed to know."

Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers' Council, said: "We expected teething problems in the South West but, if not nipped in the bud, this could become a serious threat to competition's reputation."

A spokesman for Ofgas, the regulator, said the problem was being monitored. "We are quite satisfied it is under control and that British Gas is dealing with it. The purpose of a trial is to identify problem areas."

## WEEKEND MONEY



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## SAVINGS



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## Rank in \$410m Hard Rock deal

By Alasdair Murray

THE Rank Organisation yesterday reunited the Hard Rock cafe empire with a \$410 million deal which ends founder Peter Morton's 25-year association with the business.

The deal has given Rank the exclusive rights to develop the restaurant chain throughout the world, adding a further 13 fully owned and four franchised cafes to Rank's existing chain of 41 restaurants. Rank said it intends to build a further seven cafes in the next year.

But Mr Morton will continue to own the licensing rights to the Hard Rock hotel casinos, the first of which, a \$200 million development opened recently in Las Vegas. Mr Morton is in the process of building another casino at Reno, Nevada, and said he was examining further development sites.

Mr Morton said: "I wanted to shift my focus. The real growth is in the gaming industry and I want to expand the Hard Rock Casinos."

"Selling the Hard Rock was not really sad although I had an introspective moment. It's been good to me and given me many wonderful years."

Rank wants to return the chain to its music roots through a series of tie-in deals with the music business. The

company is building the first Hard Rock Live Café at the Universal City entertainment complex in Florida which will provide an auditorium for live music performances. Andrew Teare, chief executive, said that the company was also looking at setting up a niche record label and promoting artists.

Mr Teare said: "The deal is a natural extension for the business and will provide an opportunity to turn the Hard Rock name into the flagship of Rank Leisure."

The first Hard Rock café opened in London exactly 25 years ago, inventing the concept of the themed restaurant. The founders, Mr Morton and Isaac Tigrett, used rock memorabilia for decoration and gently pushed a hippy style philosophy that has proved popular throughout the world.

But the hippy message has disguised some bitter business battles over control of the Hard Rock name since Mr Tigrett sold his stake in the business in 1988, splitting the empire.

Mr Morton sued the new owners, Pleasurama, in 1988 for undermining the restaurant's value and image in the market place and tried hard to buy the chain back for £75 million, after Pleasurama was taken over by Mecca in 1989.

The relationship between Rank, which inherited the chain after it bought Mecca, and Mr Morton has also been uncomfortable.

Mr Morton's side of the business made an operating profit of \$26 million on sales of \$109 million last year, while Rank's Hard Rock division made profits of \$66 million on sales of \$231 million.

Rank said added that it would be able to save costs through greater economies of scale in purchasing and merchandise and the company said it was confident the deal will be immediately earnings enhancing.

Rank will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the chain next week with a promotion in the London restaurant at 791 prices.



Hard Rock founder Peter Morton will have licensing rights to hotel casinos

## American jobs surge unnerves markets

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

A SURGE in job creation in America during May stoked up fear of higher inflation and tighter money in the US and hit stock and bond markets around the world yesterday.

In London, the FT-SE 100 index fell 53.5 points to 3,706.8. The Labour Department reported that 348,000 jobs had been created in May, about twice as many as Wall Street economists had anticipated. The department also revised April's marginal 2,000 extra jobs into an increase of 163,000.

The unemployment rate actually rose to 5.6 per cent in May from 5.4 per cent in April, but this reflected an

increase in numbers coming into the labour market as their confidence of finding a job increased.

President Bill Clinton said that the US economy is growing steadily and strong without major inflationary fears, a view backed up by policy advisers yesterday in an attempt to reverse the adverse market reaction.

Martin Bailey, a member of the Council of Economic Advisors, said that the jobs figures were not inflationary and presented no cause for alarm. Nevertheless, yesterday's figures sparked speculation that the Federal Open Market Committee, which next meets

on July 2 and 3, may decide to raise US interest rates.

In New York, the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell nearly two full points in an immediate reaction to the news, dragging Wall Street down, too. At one point, the Dow Jones industrial average fell by more than 80 points, to 5,588, a plunge that triggered limits on programme trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Later, however, the market recovered some of its poise. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was quoted down 29.19 points, at 5,638.00.

Market report, page 28

## Argyle move could have repercussions for De Beers

## Largest mine quits diamond cartel

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE  
IN SYDNEY

THE diamond industry was thrown into turmoil yesterday when Australia's Argyle Diamonds, owner of the world's largest mine, withdrew from the powerful Central Selling Organisation.

Argyle, which is jointly owned by RTZ, will market its own diamonds, mainly through its sales office in Antwerp.

An Argyle spokesman said yesterday: "We feel that we can get a better price for our diamonds and will be able to return a higher profit to our shareholders by marketing them directly." Argyle, in the

remote northwest Kimberley region of the Australian outback, produces mostly industrial and near-gem diamonds, accounting for about a third of global production. Argyle also dominates world production of the rare pink diamond which, on average, sells at 20 times the price of its white equivalent.

Argyle's move is a rebuff to De Beers, the South African mining group which has controlled the sales and marketing of most of the world's diamond production through the CSO for more than 60 years. The organisation sold \$4.5 billion worth of rough diamonds last year.

Australian analysts said yesterday that

Argyle's withdrawal from the cartel could have repercussions for the way that the industry operates if other producers follow suit. Laurie Fitzgerald, mining analyst at Hartley Poynton, the Perth stockbroker, said: "It is not good news for the CSO that Argyle is going it alone."

A De Beers spokesman said: "Obviously we are disappointed. However, the Argyle production represents only 6 per cent of the CSO's annual intake and so it is not going to have a significant effect."

Argyle's move marks the first attempt by a producer to break free from the cartel since Zaire returned to the fold in 1983. One analyst called it "a very brave move".

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3706.8	(-53.5)
Yield	4.09%	(-22.83)
FT-SE All share	1985.16	(-22.83)
Nikkei	21751.81	(-62.65)
New York		
Dow Jones	5638.00	(-29.19)
S&P Composite	856.35	(-5.67)

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	8 3/4%	(8 3/4%)
Yield	7.07%	(8.91%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)

### STERLING

New York	1.5415*	(1.5433)
----------	---------	----------

London:	1.5417	(1.5409)
---------	--------	----------

\$:	2.2856	(2.2878)
-----	--------	----------

DM:	8.0148	(7.9826)
-----	--------	----------

FF:	1.5618	(1.5374)
-----	--------	----------

Sfr:	182.12	(182.27)
------	--------	----------

Yen:	88.3	(88.1)
------	------	--------

\$ index	87.4	(87.3)
----------	------	--------

### US DOLLAR

London:	1.5345*	(1.5280)
---------	---------	----------

DM:	5.1985*	(5.1800)
-----	---------	----------

FF:	1.2665*	(1.2538)
-----	---------	----------

Sfr:	108.29*	(109.21)
------	---------	----------

Yen:	87.4	(87.3)
------	------	--------

\$ index	87.4	(87.3)
----------	------	--------

### WORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$17.66	(\$17.55)
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### GOLD

London close	\$385.45	(\$385.75)
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\* denotes midday trading price

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## Putting distance between Europe and its rivals

It has been a good time to slip quietly out of Europe and be able to take stock of things from a far-away perspective, as I did last weekend.

The need to promote strategic change at Inchcape took me to a management conference in Asia (Macau, to be precise), where so much of the company's trading interests are centred.

I left Heathrow for this eastern assignment exactly ten days after becoming President of the CBI. In that short period, I had been propelled into the position of acting as spokesman for British business in the midst of the drama erupting over the beef export ban and the Government's negotiating tactic of stonewall and stymie. The navigation of Niagara Falls in a barrel might have seemed to be a preferable challenge to the one of diving head first into CBI leadership at such a time.

This feeling was not helped by the fact that I would be returning to my first major CBI event — this week's launch of the "Business In

Europe" series of conferences, designed to set up a national debate and a lobby of opinion in favour of placing business priorities in the forefront of European Union development. With this to consider en route, it was fortunate, on reflection, that my principal business interest ensured that I travelled with British Airways and not another carrier, where fellow travellers might have included an excitable England football squad.

In Asia, as indeed in North America, the view of Europe's problems seems that much clearer. The enterprise and energy of agile, fast-growing economies out East is plainly aimed at competing not just on a national or regional basis, but on a global scale. Europe — our manufacturers and service providers, on one hand; and our collective consumer market on the other — is the target.

It becomes easy to deduce that the strategies of European business must, in turn, be geared to the achievement of an advanced level of global competitive ability; and that

a necessarily constrained national market base is woefully inadequate, in this context. The global ambitions of British business, especially, need the foundation of a single, pan-European market in which we can trade and invest freely without (in the words of that time-honoured British treaty to foreigners) let or hindrance.

Asian business people worry about us and Europe. For many of them, it is with our apparent stop/start attitude to Europe who are inscrutable. They need assurance that Britain will assert itself as an active, effective, integral part of Europe, because we provide their preferred gateway into the European Union, with all the very evident implications this has for new investment, employment and support services.

One of them is Chan Bae, managing director of Samsung Electronics which has relocated its European headquarters from Frankfurt to London and is investing £600 million in Britain. I have a particular interest in this burgeon-

### EXECUTIVE VOICE



Sir Colin Marshall

ing British trade sector, as chairman of London First Centre, the inward investment agency for our capital city.

I sit up and take note when people like Mr Chan say, as he did recently: "Membership of the EU has made Britain a magnet for inward investment, attracting one third of all inward investment into the EU and, in our case, 50 per cent of Korean." The Samsung chief

was clearly speaking not just for himself, but on behalf of all overseas inward investors who flock to these shores.

The truly ironic thing about the inward investment market, as we hack our way through the ever-growing jungle of pro-Europe/anti-Europe rhetoric, is that Britain is valued because we offer the best of both worlds. By that, I mean we provide the benefits of a sovereign state, with our own firmly focused economic policies, based on low inflation and a low cost of borrowing, along with other national attributes; while, at the same time, delivering unregulated access to the largest free trade zone on earth, as a fully-fledged partner in the EU.

This situation is something which neither commerce and industry, as represented by the CBI, nor Government, as confirmed variously by Messrs Major, Heseltine, Rifkind, Clarke and Lang, and would-be government, in the form of Messrs Blair and Ashdown, would be inclined to

change. So far as I can see, this comfortable status quo is also what the majority of so-called "Euro-sceptics" want to maintain. What then, if a dubious pun can be permitted, is the beef?

Certainly, there are serious, obvious concerns in Europe for our farming and fishing industries. I have to say there are also concerns for our airlines, in the case of state aid and subsidy to nationalised competitors. Transport is still not fully deregulated; and neither is another industry in which I am involved, telecommunications. There is still too much bureaucracy in Brussels and Jacques Santer's "proficiency" must be thinned out as, indeed, he seems to acknowledge readily. Things have to alter and the pace of change has to be quickened.

But this is not to do with any looming threat of political and monetary union. Concerns rest with the problems of completing the single European market as a free-trade consortium among like-minded, but essentially independent national business

communities. We want the heavy hands of politics and government lifted from the shoulders of enterprise and industry, not the other way round.

Those who peddle in spurious, doom-laden notions of the suffocation of British sovereignty do no service to the people of Britain whose prospects, in terms of both actual jobs at present and potential new ones in the future, depend arguably on single market opportunity for British firms, large and small, and for those investing here from overseas.

We must begin to look beyond the bovine imbroglio, which commonsense tells us will surely find harmony sooner rather than later, to the vital long-term task of getting European business truly fit for success in a global market.

For sure, that's the way it looks from a sensible distance.

□ Sir Colin Marshall is President of the CBI; chairman of British Airways; chairman of Inchcape; deputy chairman of BT; and chairman of London First Centre.

## BBA forced to drop Lucas takeover bid

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE threat of a major shareholder revolt has forced BBA Group to withdraw from launching a £25 billion takeover bid for Lucas Industries.

A campaign by Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, which holds a 4 per cent stake in BBA, was backed by institutional shareholders, including Threadneedle Asset Management and Standard Life.

The BBA board decided yesterday not to pursue a bid. It said in a statement that it was not satisfied Lucas shareholders would accept on suitable terms an alternative proposal to the planned £3.2 billion merger with Vario Corporation.

BBA would have needed to take on about £1 billion of debt and issue around £1.9 billion

of shares to pay for the deal. Its withdrawal leaves the field free for other bidders to try to derail the merger, which will take about three months to complete.

A number of companies have been linked with a further bid, including Volkswagen and Linde, both of Germany. But there is a growing feeling in the City that BBA's failure to put together a suitable package would count against anyone else entering the fray.

Shares in Lucas fell 15p to close at 239p, while BBA was unchanged at 303p.

Mike Beard, director of communication at Lucas, said: "We welcome the statement which underlines the excellent shareholder value created by the merger. Our shareholders and customers have throughout given strong support for the merger."

Under Takeover Panel rules BBA will not be permitted to bid for at least three months, by which time the Vario merger will have been completed unless another third party mounts a bid.



Clive Reeks, left, and David Tooth, of Silk Industries, where annual pre-tax profits rose 12.6 per cent to £2.4 million. A final dividend of 4p makes a total payout of 6p

## Casino firm sets sights on Europe

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

LONDON Clubs International, the casino group, is set to launch a major expansion abroad and is looking at new sites in Brussels, Athens, Cyprus and Dublin.

London Clubs already owns casinos in Egypt and France and will open a site in Beirut this year. Alan Goodenough, chief executive, said: "There are a number of exciting opportunities abroad, but there are still a number of legal hurdles to clear before we can develop these new sites."

The company yesterday announced a 13 per cent rise in its full-year pre-tax profits, to £33 million, on turnover of £167 million, up by 7.5 per cent.

The company's two upper-market London casinos, the Ritz and Les Ambassadeurs, performed strongly, and the London Park Tower, acquired in October, has fulfilled expectations.

The total dividend was raised 17 per cent, to 15.5p. A final dividend of 10.5p is payable on July 31.

Shares in the company rose 4p, to close at 527p.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Spring Ram warns of first-half loss

ROGER REGAN, chairman of Spring Ram, yesterday warned shareholders that the kitchens and bathrooms group would incur a first-half loss, with City analysts now expecting a deficit of as much as £8 million. Mr Regan said trading conditions in the first half of this year were worse than at the same time last year, when Spring Ram made a profit of just £900,000. In the full year, it incurred a loss of £43 million.

The continued bad performance, along with the slow progress of Spring Ram's attempts to sell its door and furniture operations, are set to bring further pressure on Mr Regan. He took control of the group three years ago when Bill Rooney, the founder, was ousted after a revolt by institutional shareholders. But, since then, the group has struggled and its share price has collapsed from 80p, to 16.4p yesterday.

## Pillar raising £44m

PILLAR, the property and investment group, is raising £44 million with a placing and open offer to fund expansion of its retail and leisure property portfolios. The company is issuing new shares at 160p each on a one-for-four basis. Existing shares fell 1p to 171p. Pillar saw a 95 per cent jump in pre-tax profits for the year to March 31, to £6.4 million. Earnings per share rose by 33 per cent, to 5.2p, and a final dividend of 3.2p will be paid, making 4.7p for the first full year after flotation.

## Allders backs Swissair

ALLDERS has finally endorsed a planned £160 million sale of Allders International, the group's duty-free stores chain, to Swissair. The company yesterday said it would ask shareholders to vote against a lower offer by BAA, the airports operator, at an extraordinary meeting on Monday. A bidding war broke out this week after BAA and the Swiss airline lifted their opening bids by £15 million each. Swissair offered £160 million just hours after BAA lifted its bid to £145 million.

## Critchley calls for cash

CRITCHLEY GROUP, the acquisitive cable identification and accessories company, is raising £11.5 million through a rights issue after recording a 27 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £7.13 million for the year to March 31. One new share is being offered for every ten held at 810p each. Critchley's existing shares fell 43p to 942p. Earnings per share were 33.2p (27.1p), and a final dividend of 7.35p made a total of 10.85p (9.25p).

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**WEEK TWO**

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

# 1000 MAKERS OF SPORT

The determination of a champion etched on her face, Chris Evert powers her way into the pantheon of sporting greats. She joins other 20th century legends such as Henry Cooper, Little Mo Connelly, Di Stefano, Gareth Edwards and Dawn Fraser in Part 2 of the superb FREE series 1000 Makers of Sport

**PLUS: LAWSON'S RECIPES**

In the Style section, Therese Lawson reveals the dishes that helped Nigel to shed pounds, from cheese and apple soufflé to weeping leg of lamb with aubergine gratin

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FOURIST RATES		
	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.06	1.90
Austria Sch	17.81	16.11
Belgium Fr	51.86	47.26
Canada \$	2.216	2.056
Cyprus Cyp£	0.78	0.708
Denmark Kr	8.89	8.89
Finland Mk	7.83	7.18
France Fr	8.41	7.76
Germany Dm	2.66	2.51
Greece Dr	388	383
Hong Kong \$	12.60	11.80
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.96
Israel Sh	3.44	4.79
Italy Lit	2407	2342
Japan Yen	161.80	165.80
Malta	0.596	0.543
Netherlands Gld	2.794	2.564
New Zealand \$	2.45	2.23
Norway Kr	10.66	9.85
Portugal Esc	255.00	236.50
S Africa Rd	7.28	6.46
Spain Ptas	307.00	194.00
Sweden Kr	11.03	10.23
Switzerland Fr	2.07	1.89
Turkey Lira	124414	116414
USA \$	1.542	1.512

Rates for small denomination bank notes (Barclays Bank rates, Friday close). Other rates apply to travellers' cheques.

## SHOP SOILED

Last Saturday night, only hours after his Facia retail empire had collapsed, Stephen Hinchliffe was at a party in his home town of Sheffield. Sipping drinks and amusing guests, he was already scheming about how he could revive his business...

Business Focus — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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## A WORKING WEEK FOR: JOHN FINBOW

## Pot of gold at end of researcher's rainbow

**Sarah Cunningham talks to a chemist who takes a down-to-earth view of his impending wealth after a lifetime in the laboratory**

**Monday**  
**Tuesday**  
**Wednesday**  
**Thursday**  
**Friday**

JOHN FINBOW, the managing director of City Technology, is in the rare and happy position of knowing what, later this month, he will become a multimillionaire.

Although he is a successful businessman, the 50-year-old Finbow is also an unassuming research chemist who has spent much of his working life in a laboratory. He insists that the £8 million to £10 million he can expect to make, on paper at least, when City Technology is floated will not affect his life. "I'm not extravagant, I can't eat any more and I can't drink any more," he says, demonstrating a self-control some lottery winners would do well to emulate.

City Technology, which designs and produces gas sensors, is the latest company owned and run by former academics to come to the market. The offer size is expected to be about £45 million, with about £20 million of new money, which will go to pay off debts. The company will be valued at £75 million to £80 million. The offer will be priced on Thursday, and trading will begin on June 20.

Finbow owns about 14 per cent of the company, which will be diluted to around 10.5 per cent. Although he acknowledges that he could sell up and retire a rich man, he is happy to leave his investment with the company. "I don't need the money. Provided it's a good investment and continues to grow, as I'm sure it will, I'll stay there until such time as I need it," he says.

The company was formed by Finbow and fellow chemists — including Brian Hobbs, now technical director — at City University, London, in 1977. It stayed part of the university until 1993, when it was bought out for £24.5 million by the management team, backed by venture capitalists led by 3i.

Finbow now sees himself as occupying three distinct roles. He has been managing director since 1989, but considers that the least demanding part of his job. More taxing and interesting to him is his work in development and in sales and marketing. "Development is conceiving of an idea and getting others to turn it into a reality," he says. "It takes maybe 10 per cent of my time. About half my time is spent marketing: endlessly meeting customers, talking about problems, and doing a lot of travelling because 75 per cent of our product is exported overseas. You have to go and see your customers; otherwise, they forget you exist."

But above all, he says, "I like to think of myself as an entrepreneur, looking for opportunities in the market and then going downstairs and discussing with the guys how we can do it." His motivation is simple: "Ego," he says.

This unusual combination of scientific know-how, enthusiasm for marketing and driving ambition has helped City Technol-

ogy to treble in size in the past five years. Last year it made an operating profit of £5.8 million on turnover of £14.4 million.

The company's origins lie with a Ministry of Defence contract won by City University in the early Seventies to make a sensor for fighter pilots' face-masks that could monitor their supply of oxygen. A round of defence spending cuts meant that the contract was cancelled, but the technology worked and soon other customers came forward. Finbow and his colleagues found that the same technology could be used to monitor other gases. Their electronic and catalytic bead sensors are now widely used in the mining, petrochemical, power generation and steel industries.

"We tried to sell the technology," Finbow recalls, "but in those days venture capitalists hadn't been invented. Nobody saw the potential, nobody was interested. So being hungry and having young children, we decided to do it ourselves."

It was unusual for a company to be set up within a university, but, he says, "the powers were quite keen". By contrast, "in the departments and among some individuals there was a fair amount of hostility".

In spite of that, he remembers it as an ideal environment in many ways. "We had a wonderful arrangement because the university was really like a banker and if we wanted materials the university would pay up, and we also didn't have to worry about salaries. It was a marvellous nurturing environment. We could get on with the job in hand of designing and building sensors."

The company gradually got too big for the City University buildings in Clerkenwell and its managers eventually approached him and asked: "Would you like to relocate because we'd like to build some lecture theatres?" The company took the hint and moved to Portsmouth, attracted by the good access and a well-trained workforce.

But it was the beginning of the end of its relationship with City University. "When we were down in Portsmouth, the university completely lost contact except as a shareholder and I think they didn't understand what we were doing and talking about and they had their own plans for capital investment. I told them they were selling too soon, but wearing my managing director's hat it was good for our shareholders who got the company for a good price," Finbow says.

Kleinwort Benson handled the sale process and, although a number of companies expressed an interest, the managers won out. "We hankered after having a go ourselves and valued our independence," he says.

Although he had never imagined himself managing a rapidly growing private company, Finbow says that he never felt out of his depth entering the commercial world. "One surrounds oneself with professional advisers, finance directors, people who can look after the



John Finbow has three distinct roles, but likes to think of himself as an entrepreneur above all. His motivation is simple: "Ego," he says

details," he says. "When you are successful, it is not difficult to organise and manage. It is when you get into trouble that you need a different kind of manager and probably a different kind of person to me," he says.

Personally, the move away from London has meant great happiness for Finbow and his wife, Toni, who teaches dyslexic children.

They moved their family of four boys to the peace and quiet of Romsey, 30 miles from Portsmouth, on the edge of the New Forest. Their house has a large garden, which he enjoys working on, when he has the time. Their youngest son, Dominic, 14, is at school, while Ben, who is 19, is at Reading University studying engineering ("Bless his heart"). Oliver, 23, is a full-time rower with ambitions to compete at the Sydney Olympics in the year 2000, while their eldest son, Alex, is 24 and currently does walk-on parts for television programmes

**Monday**  
**Tuesday**  
**Wednesday**  
**Thursday**  
**Friday**

and films. He wants to set up a video company, with which his father will become involved.

His sons have very different lives from what Finbow experienced growing up in Paddington, west London, the son of a builder. His only worry about them is that they could become spoilt. "I don't want them to feel that they're going to inherit millions of pounds, so they can sit around and do nothing. They've got to go out and make their own way. What we can do is to give them a start."

Finbow has few worries about the future of the company, which is looking to new markets in monitoring pollution and

developing improved carbon monoxide alarms for homes. The company's skill, he says, is in taking existing technology and adapting it for mass-market production. "We have no big rivals: it is very difficult for anyone now to come into the market. It would take two or three years, and nobody is that committed to doing it," he says.

British scientists have always been considered excellent at science, but bad at turning ideas into products. This is unfair, Finbow argues, saying: "The scientists are very good at developing things but unfortunately are not often given the opportunity to take them to market and sell

them. They are usually taken over by accountants and other professionals, who don't have a clue about the product." He adds: "If someone like Clive Sinclair were starting today, the enterprise culture would probably make him very successful. But he struggled because he didn't have funds. He was way ahead of his time; he just wasn't supported."

Finbow blames City short-termism for the problems of his predecessors, but does not mind taking a short-term view himself occasionally — when the drama of flotation is over, his plan is to "drink copious quantities of ale, cut the grass in the garden and put my feet up".

## HIDDEN ASSETS

## Artistic chemistry that cures the office blues

**Joanna Pitman on how Boots created a splendid gallery of contemporary work**

**B**oots the Chemists has recently installed a magnificent collection of contemporary works of art, specially commissioned for its new headquarters in Nottingham. The company has a long tradition of artistic and architectural patronage and is perhaps best known in this area for its famous Grade I listed D10 factory at Beeston in Nottingham.

Designed by Owen Williams and completed in 1932, it is now recognised by architectural historians as a pioneering work of English Modernism.

The new group headquarters, however, is a single-storey building, also in Nottingham, designed by Amec Design and Management. The interiors are ideal for large-scale contemporary art — white walls with muted complementary colours and wide open spaces washed with natural light.

The dignity and simplicity of the surroundings required careful artistic commissioning to produce a collection that would both complement the spaces and reflect the culture of the company.

James Knox, of Art for Work, acted as consultant on the project. "The patience and skill required in an act of genuine patronage have as their goal the production of works of art that benefit both the company and the artist at every level."

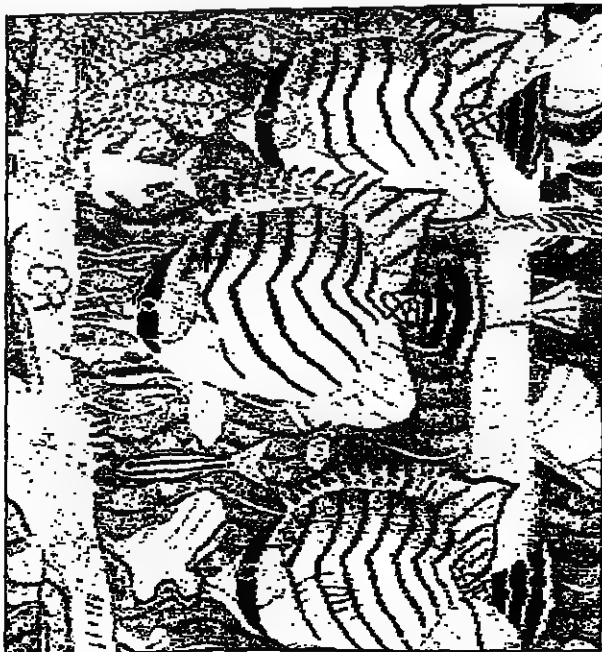
"The pitfalls are avoided by matching the right artist to the right subject. Ultimately the finished works must enhance both the working environment and the reputa-

tion of the artist." The collection he assembled has already proved successful from both the corporate and the artists' point of view; a number of the already distinguished artists have since been elevated to greater public triumphs.

Philip Hughes, for example, was commissioned to design a pair of wall rugs to be hung at the entrance to the main interior office. Hughes was inspired by an aerial view of the River Trent as it flows through an urban landscape. Since his work was hung, he has been

appointed chairman of the National Gallery in London, the first artist chosen for the post. For the central meeting area of the building, Steven Newell, the glass engraver, was commissioned to design a stained-glass screen. He produced a huge piece of intricately designed coloured glasswork, which dominates the end wall. The design derived from his studies of a pestle and mortar and is considered to be his most ambitious and unusual work to date.

Leonard McComb, Keeper of the Royal Academy



Leonard McComb, Keeper of the Royal Academy Schools, designed this tapestry for the boardroom

Schools, was chosen to design another tapestry for the boardroom. His design responded not only to the sophisticated demands of the patron's brief, but also to his own extensive artistic experience. He created an unusually fluid and serene image of fish swimming among a coral reef.

Another carefully chosen subject was handled by Richard Perry, the Nottingham sculptor, who was asked to create a pair of bronzes to stand outside the entrance of the building.

Perry, who is often inspired by the forms and colours and movements of nature, designed a pair called *Willow Cube* and *Pine Cube*, which he cast in bronze from plaster.

Meanwhile, the 1932 Boots factory, hailed as "an icon of British Modernism", has been restored and refurbished by Amec Design and Management in consultation with English Heritage.

As Peter Fawcett, Professor of Architecture at Nottingham University, points out: "The process of conserving Modern Movement buildings is notoriously problematic. The importance of this project is that Boots decided to inject a new lease of life into a Grade I listed building while maintaining its original commercial purpose."

"That its enhanced performance standards have been achieved without detriment to the ethos of Williams's masterpiece indicates another chapter in the history of the conservation of Modernist buildings."

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# Dow leads London lower as rate rise fears grow

RENEWED worries about an imminent rise in US interest rates left government securities and equities nursing sharp falls on the day.

The FT-SE 100 index closed just above the 3,700 mark after being sent reeling by an opening plunge of almost 87 points in the Dow Jones industrial average. The index ended the session 53.5 points down, at 3,706.2, a fall on the week of 41 points.

The setback follows publication of the latest US employment figures showing the number of people getting jobs growing by 348,000, way above most forecasts. Once again, economists have taken this as a signal that the US economy is gathering pace and that a rise in interest rates is inevitable.

The consequences of such a move were not lost on London, where earlier this week base rates were cut to 5.75 per cent, their lowest level for eight years.

Blue-chip stocks were all marked lower, but selling pressure was minimal, with total turnover reaching 722 million shares. BAT Industries fell 15p to 998.9p. Glaxo 15p to 818.9p and Legal & General 23p to 662.9p.

The snail of burnt fingers waited round the Square Mile last night as shares of Lucas Industries tumbled 15p, to 239p, after BBA stunned speculators by announcing that it would not be proceeding with its blocking bid.

BBA, unchanged at 303p, has been locked in talks with institutional shareholders during the past couple of days, trying to gauge the level of support that it could muster if it were to make a bid for the larger Lucas.

An announcement from the company said that it had been unable to satisfy itself that Lucas shareholders would accept an alternative deal to the proposed merger with Varity Corporation of the US. Only last week, Lucas announced plans for a £3.2 billion merger with Varity, creating a leading force in the car components market.

Last night, the speculators were holding out for another bidder to emerge for Lucas, pointing to open positions in the shares on the traded options market where there are still 9,000 contracts, equivalent to nine million shares, among the August 26th series.



The battle over control of duty-free shops saw Alders up 4p and BAA down 4p as BAA lost out to Swissair

GKN, down 16p at 974p, TI 14p off at 524p and BTR 6p lower at 269p, have all been tipped this week as potential suitors.

Shares of Mail, the online information provider, enjoyed a late rally, finishing 38p ahead on the day at 339p, just a shade below the year's high. It follows publication of a bullish circular from Merrill

British Aerospace rose 24p to 937p. Talk that Airbus Industrie, the aircraft manufacturer in which it has a 20 per cent stake, may be floated is back on the agenda after a visit to Airbus's Toulouse plant earlier this week by a group of US investors. Brokers say Airbus could be worth £4 billion-plus.

Lynch, the broker, rating the shares a buy. Merrill considers Mail one of the best internet plays on the London market and the shares look good value for money. The group should begin to be strongly profitable next year on the back of dramatically increased subscriber numbers, especially in the US. Last month, Mail reported an increased first-quarter loss of £1.43 million, compared with

from Swissair topped a previous increase offered from BAA worth £145 million. Alders finished 4p dearer at 210p.

Shares in the Premier League football clubs came under the hammer as the profit-takers moved in after the clubs agreed an extension of their deal with BSkyB, where News International, publisher of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, and the BBC. The new four-year con-

tract is worth £743 million and begins at the start of the 1997-98 season. BSkyB was 4p down at 432p after announcing the deal.

FA Carling Premiership matches will continue to be shown on the satellite channel, with recorded highlights on the BBC's *Match of the Day*. The three publicly-quoted Premier League clubs have been chased sharply higher all week and some profit-taking was inevitable, say brokers.

Manchester United, the current champions, fell 24p to 439p, and Tottenham Hotspur 7p to 454p. The latter remains 75p up on the week. Chelsea Village, quoted on the Alternative Investment Market, was steady at 66p.

A profits warning left former high-flyer Spring Rail 3p lower at 16p. Roger Regan, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that first-half results at the troubled kitchen and bathroom equipment supplier would fall well short of last year's £900,000. However, the second half will show an improvement on the corresponding period last year, when the group made a loss, before exceptional items, of £13.6 million.

Lloyds TSB fell 8p to 306p after SBC Warburg, the broker, downgraded its recommendation from "add" to a "hold". Warburg is said to have made its move in the belief that the Bank of England will alter the way the group can treat profits on the balance sheet accrued from insurance activities.

**GILT-EDGED:** Reaction to the US employment numbers was fairly predictable, with market-makers moving quickly to deter any potential sellers. The markdown was a repeat performance of previous months after publication of the figures.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt fell 1/8p to £104 1/2, as a total of 71,000 contracts were completed by the close.

In longer, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 also fell 1/8p to £96 1/2, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1/8p easier at £102 1/2.

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5638.00 (-28.19)
S&P Composite	666.36 (-6.07)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	21751.81 (-52.65)
Hong Kong:	
HSE Index	11106.55 (-29.28)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	966.51 (-6.25)
Sydney:	
ASX 200	2221.10 (+6.31)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2557.43 (+4.00)
Singapore:	
SEAC	2338.30 (+4.04)
Brussels:	
CEX	9434.87 (+15.18)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2101.99 (+1.21)
Zurich:	
SIX	777.60 (+3.20)
London:	
FT 100	2752.2 (-47.1)
FT 100 Mid 250	2708.8 (-53.5)
FT 100 All Share	2744.8 (-34.8)
FT 100 Industrials	2781.1 (-24.3)
FT 100 Financials	2699.4 (-7.8)
FT 100 Consumer	2865.1 (-25.3)
FT 100 Utilities	2999.9 (-21.0)
FT 100 Energy	1120.1 (-1.0)
FT 100 Govt	92.29 (-0.34)
SEAC Volume	719.4M
USM (Daxim)	222.65 (+0.05)
USM (Daxim)	1.5418 (+0.0009)
USM (Daxim)	2.3605 (+0.0010)
USM (Daxim)	86.3 (+0.2)
USM (Daxim)	1.0068
USM (Daxim)	125.6 Apr (2.4%) Jun 1997=100
USM (Daxim)	132.0 Apr (2.9%) Jun 1997=100

RISKS:	
Aberforth Sml (100)	100 - 2
Biocompare Ws	51 - 2
PA Coats (100)	118 -
Carlsbrooks (90)	108 -
Emtech	65 + 2
Epic Multimedia	95 -
Euro Telecom (115)	146 + 7
Garmore Select Jap	91 - 1
Hercules Prop Sves	55 -
Hydro-Dynamic (100)	116 + 1
INVESTCO Eng & Int	97 - 1
Independent Energy	108 -
Luminar (200)	288 - 9
Multiberry Group	176 -
Wilton Rail	205 -
Railtrack (100)	214 - 2
Recognition Sys (70)	120 - 1
Renaissance US Gth	98 -
SEA Multimedia	75 -
Schroder Vent Int	194 -
Taiwan Int Tm C	91 - 1
Thomas Pts	12 -
Tom Hoskins	53 -
Whitcross (84)	93 -

FALLS:	
Albrighton n/p (6)	1 1/2 + 1/2
Chesfield n/p (220)	38 1/2 - 1
Enterprise n/p (153)	35 -
Enterprise n/p (140)	22 - 1
Isosoft n/p (5)	6 1/2 -
Proteus Int n/p (45)	26 -
Stechley n/p (105)	108 -

CLOSING PRICES PAGE 39	
RISKS:	
MAID	386p (+38p)
Cold Gp	319p (+10p)
Redbridge	494p (+11p)
BAC	807p (+24p)
Carpetright	830p (+14p)
FALLS:	
Litronic	2610 (-22p)
Fitronic	3080 (-32p)
Int Biotech	1430 (-10p)
Centrics	1550 (-10p)
Refuge	4480 (-24p)
Man Ltd	4390 (-24p)

## TEMPUS

### Extra lift at Aerospace

IN 1992, British Aerospace was closer to bankruptcy than the City realised. It was bad enough that the company was suffering a huge cash haemorrhage. What was worse, its executives could not immediately work out where the black holes were. The shares could have been bought for a little over £1 in the autumn of 1992, a far cry from yesterday's 24p surge to 937p, an all-time high.

The fresh excitement in British Aerospace was generated this week by Jean Pierson, president of Airbus, the European civil aviation consortium in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake. As well as an upbeat statement on production of Airbus aircraft and on further cost cuts it was left with the consortium was shortly to produce a report by its partners on its future.

The report has got the City very excited. An exaggeration? Not at all — just look at the mayhem among copper traders on the London Metals Exchange this week. Traders, suffering varying degrees of sudden financial disadvantage, are all pointing the finger at hedge funds, in a manner rather reminiscent of the pound's exit from the European exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992.

Yesterday the copper market tried to get its own back on the hedge funds which appeared to go massively short of copper on Thursday, selling metal they did not possess in the hope of making money by buying it back more cheaply later. So by tea-time yesterday, metal for immediate delivery was standing at \$320 a tonne above copper for delivery in three months, a reversal of the normal state of affairs. Brokers were talking

about the "real pressure" being exerted towards the end of June. Derivatives played a role in the price collapse as those who help mining companies hedge their normal operations responded to market risks. The moral for the private investor: stay away from single commodities — don't put your eggs in one basket.

Only one problem. The consortium is made up of British Aerospace, privatised some considerable time ago, but also Aerospatiale, owned by the French State; Daimler Benz Aerospace of Germany; and Construcciones Aeronauticas SA, of Spain. Even the partners of the consortium would anticipate some considerable period of argument before a business plan is agreed. If anything is going to happen, it probably ought to happen by the end of this year. On a yield of 1.7 per cent and a price-earnings multiple of 33, British Aerospace should not be chased much higher.

### Copper

IF YOUR humble correspondent approached a bank manager with a proposition to borrow the bank's money to buy commodities he would fully expect to be shown the door. Set up a hedge fund, however, and you could run amok on the commodities markets.

Liberty

HOWEVER devoted they may be to glossy silk scarves and flowery ties, shareholders in Liberty, the retailer, may have found their patience a little frayed at the edges. Five years of declining profits, and a £16.6 million loss last year, do not quite amount to the performance that might have been expected.

Yesterday brought the news that, as well as coming back on its branches, Liberty has decided that it can no longer make its own distinctive fabrics, leading to the closure of its textile operation in Europe and a warehouse in Burnley, Lancashire. Liberty will keep on designing, but will license the rights to manufacture and to distribute.

Denis Cassidy, the chairman, held out the hope that profits could soon be rising. Had the restructuring taken place a year earlier, pre-tax profits on a pro-forma basis would have doubled to around £4 million. The cuts

met with City approval and the shares rose 42p, to 395p. They are also likely to please Brian Myerson, the South African investor with a 17 per cent stake, who has been pressing for change at Liberty. Liberty's shares are likely to be buoyed by speculation that Mr Myerson is interested in bidding.

Free of its loss-making businesses, Liberty is an attractive proposition for a predator — provided, of course, that the bidder could win over the 44 per cent holding of the descendants of Arthur Liberty, founder of the business.

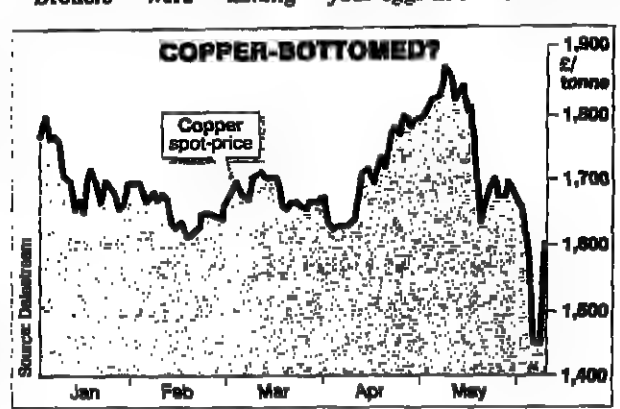
remove Nissan franchises from the company. It was a long haul back for Cook, and a departure from the UK for Bomar after investigations by the tax authorities.

Cook's business has now been rebuilt with a range of marques — from Citroen to Fiat and with a heavy emphasis on second-hand car sales. While nobody has any illusions that this business is anything but fragile — a drop in consumer confidence can murder profits — Cook appears undervalued relative to the rest of the sector.

Profits for the year that has just ended are due out next month, and should show a solid 30 to 40 per cent growth to around £6 million pre-tax. This would put the shares, which have recovered from a low of 17p to stand at 63p, on a multiple of just seven times earnings. This is significantly below comparable companies, such as Reg Vardy. The City has allowed Derek Cook to suffer for quite some time. A rerating must be on the cards.

### DC Cook

THE CITY is not fond of DC Cook. This is because the market tends to have a selective memory. It is willing to forget some things, but remembers how Derek Cook's motor traders disappointed shortly after floating in 1987. Cook claims it was a victim of Octav Botwin's decision to



met with City approval and the shares rose 42p, to 395p. They are also likely to please Brian Myerson, the South African investor with a 17 per cent stake, who has been pressing for change at Liberty. Liberty's shares are likely to be buoyed by speculation that Mr Myerson is interested in bidding.

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LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE	
COPPER	
Jul	1121-1121 Sep 1098-1098
Aug	1121-1121 Sep 1098-1098
Oct	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Nov	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Dec	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
SILVER	
Jul	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Aug	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Oct	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Nov	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Dec	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098

ICE-LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE	
CRUDE OIL (Brent 15 day)	
Jul	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10
Aug	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10
Oct	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10
Nov	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10
Dec	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10
NATURAL GAS	
Jul	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10
Aug	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10
Oct	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10
Nov	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10
Dec	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES	
FT-SE 100	
Jul	3750.00-3750.00 Sep 3750.00-3750.00
Aug	3750.00-3750.00 Sep 3750.00-3750.00
Oct	3750.00-3750.00 Sep 3750.00-3750.00
Nov	3750.00-3750.00 Sep 3750.00-3750.00
Dec	3750.00-3750.00 Sep 3750.00-3750.00
Three Month Euro Yen	
Jul	98.16-98.16 Sep 98.16-98.16
Aug	98.16-98.16 Sep 98.16-98.16
Oct	98.16-98.16 Sep 98.16-98.16
Nov	98.16-98.16 Sep 98.16-98.16
Dec	98.16-98.16 Sep 98.16-98.16

DOLLAR RATES	
Australia	
Jul	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200
Aug	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200
Oct	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200
Nov	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200
Dec	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200
Canada	
Jul	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200
Aug	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200
Oct	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200
Nov	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200
Dec	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200

WALL STREET	
Dow Jones	
Jul	5638.00-5638.00 Sep 5638.00-5638.00
Aug	5638.00-5638.00 Sep 5638.00-5638.00
Oct	5638.00-5638.00 Sep 5638.00-5638.00
Nov	5638.00-5638.00 Sep 5638.00-5638.00
Dec	5638.00-5638.00 Sep 5638.00-5638.00

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION	
CATTLE	
Jul	1121-1121 Sep 1098-1098
Aug	1121-1121 Sep 1098-1098
Oct	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Nov	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Dec	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	
COPPER	
Jul	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10
Aug	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10
Oct	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10
Nov	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10
Dec	18.10-18.10 Sep 18.10-18.10

MONEY RATES (%)	
Prime Bank Bills (12m)	
Jul	5.75-5.75 Sep 5.75-5.75
Aug	5.75-5.75 Sep 5.75-5.75
Oct	5.75-5.75 Sep 5.75-5.75
Nov	5.75-5.75 Sep 5.75-5.75
Dec	5.75-5.75 Sep 5.75-5.75

OTHER STERLING	
Argentina peso	
Jul	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200
Aug	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200
Oct	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200
Nov	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200
Dec	1.5200-1.5200 Sep 1.5200-1.5200

FT-SE VOLUMES	
Jul	
Jul	1121-1121 Sep 1098-1098
Aug	1121-1121 Sep 1098-1098
Oct	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Nov	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Dec	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098

LIFE OPTIONS	
CATTLE	
Jul	1121-1121 Sep 1098-1098
Aug	1121-1121 Sep 1098-1098
Oct	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Nov	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Dec	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098

LIFE INDEX PRICES	
CATTLE	
Jul	1121-1121 Sep 1098-1098
Aug	1121-1121 Sep 1098-1098
Oct	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Nov	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Dec	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)	
CATTLE	
Jul	1121-1121 Sep 1098-1098
Aug	1121-1121 Sep 1098-1098
Oct	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Nov	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098
Dec	1098-1098 Sep 1098-1098

Africa Rand (com)		56.090-6.7610
Africa & diamond		6.150-5.7340
Barclays Bank GTS - Lunds Bank		
Bank of NY		52 5/8
Bank of NY & NY		52 1/2
Barclays Bank		61 1/2
Barclays & Lomb		61 1/2
Bank of Montreal		61 1/2
Bank of Montreal		61 1/2
Bank of Montreal		61 1/2
Bank of Montreal		61 1/2
Bank of Montreal		61 1/2
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Trusts dance to the tune of small savers

## WEEKEND MONEY

## LOST PENSIONS 34

Why women lose out when they retire



# Endowments are left in the shade

Caroline Merrell on why many savings plans may not yield enough to repay the mortgage

Millions of home owners will enjoy cheaper mortgages after this week's cut in base rates. However, the cost savings for many may be counteracted by higher premiums on endowments as it becomes increasingly clear that many savings plans are not on track to pay off loans.

Some of the UK's biggest life insurance companies, including Royal Life, Pearl and Legal & General, have been forced to contact their policyholders to alert them to the problem. Others, such as Prudential and Norwich Union, are monitoring the situation to see whether they need to take action, while Standard Life and Scottish Amicable are leaving it up to their clients to make contact to try to find out whether they need to pay more in to their savings schemes.

Many policyholders could face substantial increases to their premiums on the back of the dwindling returns earned by their endowments. Pearl, for instance, has contacted 30,000 policyholders from a total of 440,000 to warn them of the possible shortfall between their policies and the mortgage.

Pearl claims that around two thirds of these clients face increases in premiums of less than £120 a year, while the worst affected could end up paying £300 more a year in premiums.

Royal wrote to a selection of its policyholders two years ago to point out that they could have to increase their premiums to ensure that their mortgages were paid off. Chris Hudson, Royal Life spokesman, said the company was now writing to all its with-profits endowment policyholders to alert them to a change in the way policies are reviewed. He also said the company would be contacting a number of these to warn them about a possible shortfall.

Some financial advisers are predicting that if no action is taken, some of the shorter-term policies could end up being about £5,000 less than the £50,000 average mortgage.

John Hylands, Standard Life general manager of marketing, on the other hand, is confident that the 1.6 million policies sold by the company are on track to meet their target. He said: "We have been achieving returns over about 10 per cent on our policies, so we feel confident that the policies are on target."

At the height of the housing boom nine years ago, about 80 per cent of those taking out a mortgage also took out an endowment aimed at paying off the loan at the end of the mortgage term. Figures from the Association of British Insurers show that nearly seven million endowments were sold from 1987 to 1989 alone.

These savings plans were offered by the majority of the biggest building societies through their tie-ups with life insurance companies. Halifax, for example, had a tie-up with Standard Life, Alliance & Leicester was linked up with Scottish Amicable, while Nationwide sold the policies of Guardian Royal Exchange - now called Guardian.

Prospective homeowners were told that not only would they have enough to pay off their loans at the end of the term, they would also have an extra tax-free lump sum when their policy matured. The premium rate for these policies was determined by standard projections and standard charges. Until 1988, those offering with-profits endowments were allowed to assume that they would grow annually at a rate of between 7 and 10.5 per cent, and that standard charges on the policies would apply. The premium rates on these policies were set using these projected returns.

Unfortunately, many companies have failed to produce the returns necessary to match these projections, and the charges on policies have risen sharply - by up to 20 per cent in some cases.

A recent survey by Money Marketing, the trade magazine, showed that the average return over the past ten years on an endowment policy was about 9.8 per cent, while the lowest was 0.8 per cent. Over five years, the returns have been even lower, averaging about 8 per cent, with the poorest performers hitting 5.5 per cent.

Securitized Endowment Contracts, the independent financial adviser, monitors the performance of endowment contracts. Max Rosen, managing director, said the company had recently surveyed 300 policies from a number of the biggest life insurance companies. He said: "We think that around 60 per cent of these policies are not on track to pay off the mortgages as they were intended."

Mr Rosen added that if the trend of falling bonus rates, caused by falling investment returns and low inflation, continued over the next five years, then the majority of endowments would have to be reviewed.

## Checklist for shortfall fears

If you think you have an endowment policy that is not on track to pay off a mortgage you can check this in a number of ways.

### COMMUNICATE

If you bought your endowment through a bank or building society - by far the most common route - or through a financial adviser or life insurance salesman, contact them about your fears. They will be able to find out under what assumptions the policy was sold to you and contact the company to ascertain how the policy is doing, and whether any action needs to be taken.

You could also contact Securitized Endowment Contracts (SEC). For a sum of £10, SEC will provide with-profits endowment policyholders with a valuation, plus an idea of what their estimated maturity could be, and whether it will result in a deficit or surplus on the mortgage. SEC

claims that it will be able to provide the figures within 48 hours.

### MOST AT RISK

The endowments that are most likely not to be able to pay off the loan are the shorter ten-year and 15-year contracts. These have had the most severe cuts in bonus rates. Those companies that have the poorest performing policies will also be more at risk than better-performers. According to a recent survey, the poorest performers over ten years included Eagle Star, Royal Life, Scottish Amicable and Scottish Life. Also most likely to be at risk are the "low-cost" endowments where generous projections were used to keep the cost of premiums down.

### ACTION PLAN

Any action you choose to take depends on your circumstances. Pearl, for instance, is giving its policyholders a

choice of five options. For those who have less than ten years to maturity, or whose policies are less than £10 a month, it suggests saving up in a building society account to pay off any shortfall. The amount you need to save depends on the projected shortfall. It is also suggesting that these people could top up the premiums on their existing plans. One further option is to pay off part of the original loan. Some lenders allow this, while others may charge.

If you have a long time to go before the policy matures, you could choose to do nothing, in the hope that the performance of the endowment will improve. The low investment yields being experienced at present because of low inflation and low interest rates may not continue for ever.

You should not surrender your policy as most life insurance companies impose large surrender penalties.

CAROLINE MERRELL

CAROLINE MERRELL

## Keep a weather eye on 3i

As the top brass of 3i look out from their offices overlooking Waterloo station, they have every reason to feel content. The past few years have been ones of substantial progress, and achievement. The company's successful IPO in July 1994 established it as the UK's largest investment trust: membership of the FT-SE 100 club followed shortly thereafter, and since flotation the company's shares have usefully beaten the UK market, returning 72 per cent with dividends reinvested, against 34 per cent for the All Share.

Just as importantly, the strategic changes ushered in by Ewen Macpherson, the current chief executive, and Brian Larcombe, the finance director, have stood the company in good stead. Costs remain under control. The company is exiting gracefully from a dalliance in the US and its network of offices throughout the UK continues to generate a steady stream of investment opportunities. The group invested £610 million in the year to March 31, 1996.

However, investment trusts' performance depends on the behaviour of their underlying assets and getting on for 90 per cent of 3i's assets are in UK companies, the bulk of which are pretty small. For example, only around 18 per cent of 3i's investments have a pre-tax profit of £5 million or more. Smaller companies, both quoted and unquoted, are sensitive to the health of the UK

### PERSONAL INVESTOR

economy, but arguably unquoted are the more sensitive of the two. So, 3i's last difficult years came when the UK economy went into recession in the early 1990s, and the group's strong performance since listing owes something to the economic growth with which this has coincided.

So, if you believe that the UK economy is heading downwards, 3i is not the stock for you. Merrill Lynch believes that although the economy clearly dipped towards the end of 1995, fundamentally the UK remains well placed, with GDP growth forecast at 2.5 per cent for 1996 and 3.7 per cent for 1997. This would continue to provide a good backdrop for the group. Keep an eye out, though, for any signs of sustained economic weakness, as this would undoubtedly take its toll of 3i's assets.

Also, like all investment trusts, 3i does not necessarily trade at its net asset value (NAV). Some trusts trade at "premiums" to NAV, but at the moment the majority trade at below NAV, at a discount. 3i began life at a discount in the 'teens, but was smartly re-rated to trade at a small premium. Why? Partly, no doubt, because investors perceived

that it was well managed and operated in a favourable background.

Another reason, though, was that only around 45 per cent of the company's shares were sold. As a result, index funds found it hard to buy their desired weightings. Last summer, another tranche of shares were sold, and on Thursday it was confirmed that the remaining big block of bank shares, NatWest's 17 per cent, was also to be sold. Index-related demand will therefore become a much less significant factor.

Finally, its non-UK assets must deliver the same level of returns as the UK. Last year, dull European economies and relatively dull markets for European smaller companies led to a 12 per cent return from this portfolio, against 28 per cent from the UK.

Buying any share is a balancing act, but the scales seem unusually even for 3i. In its favour: a strong record, a clear strategy and, in Merrill's view, a helpful background. Against: the company's rating could have more downside than upside, and the risks of getting the UK economy wrong could be substantial. We would hold on to 3i's shares but keep a lookout for any signs of economic weakness in the UK.

PHILIP MIDDLETON  
Investment Trust Analyst, Merrill Lynch



## Direct in its lowest offer yet

Direct Line delivered its strongest challenge to the high street lenders by cutting its mortgage rate to 6.05 per cent from 6.2 per cent, substantially undercutting the biggest building societies, which settled their rates around the 6.99 per cent mark.

The company also moved on the savings side by lowering rates on higher balances, but increasing the rate on those with balances of £500 to £999 to 4.5 per cent. The high street lenders have yet to make any move on savings, but all are indicating further cuts.

Jim Spowart, Direct Line financial services managing director, said: "Our new rates offer far better value than high street banks and building societies, including the mutuals."

A £60,000, 25-year variable rate repayment loan with Direct Line will now cost £367 per month at 6.05 per cent. This compares to the monthly repayment rate of £402 on the equivalent Halifax mortgage - a saving of £420 a year.

Direct Line's rate also undercuts some offered by those lenders committed to mutuality. For instance, it is lower than Bradford & Bingley's variable rate, which was cut to 6.74 per cent from 6.99 per cent, but higher than the 5.99 per cent rate offered by Bradford & Bingley's direct arm. Direct Line's rate also undercuts that of the Nationwide's 6.74 per cent.

Other low rates announced this week include 6.24 per cent, down from 6.46 per cent, at the Coventry Building Society for borrowers who have been with this society for more than five years.

Ian Darby, marketing director of John Charcol, mortgage broker, said he thought there would be no immediate reaction in the fixed rate mortgage market to the rate cut, but added: "Longer-term fixed rates of more than five years may increase slightly."

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

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# A slice out of life savings

Caroline Merrell and Sarah Jones  
on how charges hit investments

**P**ity the poor investor. His money can be eaten away morsel by morsel in charges. After the middleman (the financial adviser, broker or salesman), fund manager and insurance company have had their slice, the investment cake certainly will not have any cherries or icing on top. In the first few years of a policy, the investor can be left with just a few crumbs.

However, there is some good news. Under the influence of newcomers, such as Virgin which has introduced low charge personal equity plans (Peps), charges under being reduced. The disclosure regime, introduced in January 1995, also forces fund managers and insurance companies to make a clean breast of their charges. Disclosure has, however, not hastened the reduction. Good performance must always be the overriding factor in any investment decision. But the impact of charges can decrease the prospect for profit, which means that even those who study the performance leagues are now increasingly checking out charges and other vital statistics, such as the mysterious free asset ratios. We answer your questions.

**Q** What level of charges can I expect to pay on a pension or endowment policy?

**A** When it comes to life insurance products, such as savings bonds, endowment policies and pensions, charges can take a greedy slice of the investment cake. On a single-premium life bond, such as with-profits or distribution bond, commission is around 5 per cent. However, on longer-term products, such as pensions and life insurance, commission may gobble up the majority of the investment in the early years. You will be told how much this commission will be in the product particulars. For example, on a £100-a-month pension plan, it may amount to around £832.

You will also be told in cash terms what all the other deductions will be. These will include fund management charges (on average 1 to 1.5 per cent a year), administration and policy charges (£2-£5 a month) and possibly renewal commission. You will also be provided with a surrender value for the policy, or a transfer value for a pension. This figure is a good indicator of the overall impact of the charges in the early years.

The Money Marketing with-profits pension and endowment survey (£3.75 from customer services, 0171-292 3707) showed that surrender values after five years on a £20-a-month, 25-year term policy varied from £3,671 (Equitable Life) to £2,264 (Eagle Star), with a mean of £2,905.

**Q** Where can I find out more about how endowment and pension schemes compare?

**A** The Money Marketing survey rates schemes on various criteria, including surrender values, showing clearly the impact of charges. For example, if you make a single payment of £25,000 into a pension plan, over 35 years the Prudential will deduct £227,845 in charges. Royal Insurance deducts just £13,000.

**Q** What sort of charges can I expect to pay for a unit or investment trust?

**A** The first slice off a unit trust is the initial charge, which can be as high as 6 per cent. Typically half goes in commission to the middleman. The initial charge equates to the bid/offer spread, that is the difference between the quoted buying ("offer") price and the selling ("bid") price of units on a given day.

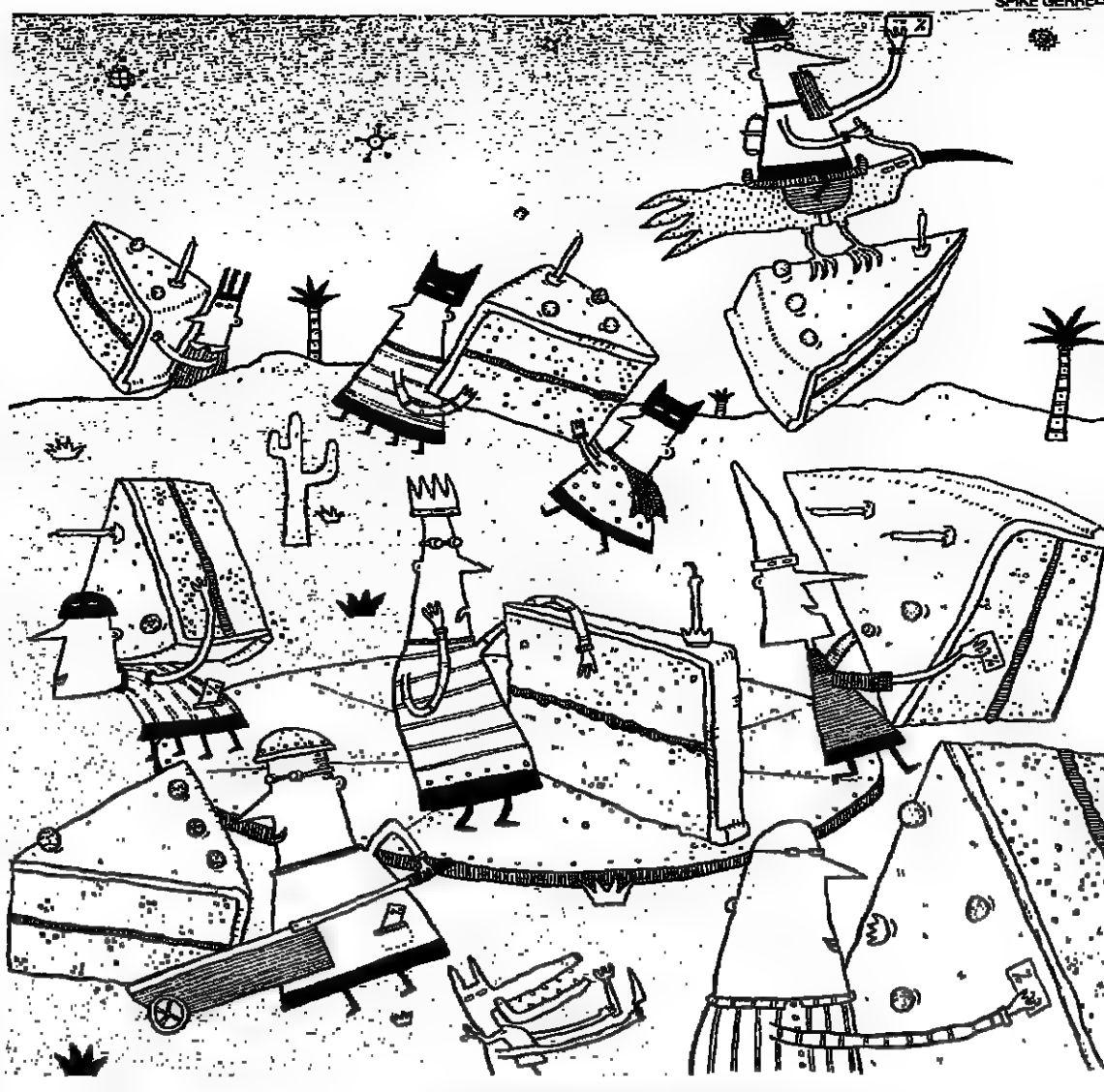
Sometimes the initial charge on a personal equity plan (Pep) is less than the bid/offer spread of the unit trust. Even then your investment has to perform by, say, 6 per cent to even start making money. The next slice comes from the annual management charge. Between 0.5 and 1.5 per cent will be taken out every year and over five or more years can add up to a substantial amount. With Peps that can include a renewal commission to the middleman. These charges are not performance-related. Even if the managers do a very poor job of stock picking they pick up their fees. However, charges are coming down; the average initial charge is 3 per cent. However, top performers such as Perpetual continue to have high charges, sure in the knowledge that their investments will attract customers.

**Q** How about investment trusts?

**A** Investment trusts can work out cheaper than unit trusts. Since you are buying and selling through the stock market, as opposed to through the fund manager, you will have to pay stockbrokers' commission — typically 1.5 per cent plus 0.5 per cent stamp duty. Annual management charges tend to be lower at 0.5 to 1 per cent. There will, however, be charges when you sell.

**Q** So typically how much does that mean?

**A** Say you invest £10,000 for five years in the Gartmore European unit trust. The initial charge



## WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN AN INSURER

will be £560 and, assuming an annual growth of 10 per cent, the annual management charges amount to a further £620, a total of £1,180. Alternatively, put the same amount in the Gartmore European investment trust. You would pay £150 in stockbroker commission and another £50 in stamp duty. Annual management charges amount to £485 and when you sell the trust there will be £228 in stockbroker commission, a total of £913.

**Q** Where is it possible to get discounts?

**A** Generally you will get a discount, or rather a reduction in commission, for an execution-only deal. That means you have to know what you want, since you will get little advice. Discount houses include Chelsea (0171 351 6022), Garrison (0482 861455), Pep Shop (0115 962 5105), BEST Investment (0171-321 0100) and Allenbridge (0171-409 1111).

Alternatively go to a fee-based independent financial adviser. For a list of firms contact Money Management (01179 769444).

OVER the past few years, a factor called financial strength has become increasingly important when choosing policies.

There may well be some strong reasons for not buying the policies offered by certain companies because they are financially weak. Companies in this position could be taken over — an action which may not always prove to be in the interests of the policyholders.

Financially weak companies may not always be able to invest as freely as they would like, because they have to keep more of their investments in fixed interest securities to ensure that they meet their liabilities.

On the other hand, a takeover, or a demutualisation, may bring an extra bonus to the policyholder.

**Q** How is financial strength of a company measured?

**A** The most common measure of financial strength is the free

asset ratio, which is, as its name suggests, the assets that the company has after it has met all its liabilities. Professional opinion is divided about how useful this figure is.

Some believe that if this ratio is under 10 per cent, then the company could become a takeover target, while other observers believe that a figure of under 5 per cent is a more relevant yardstick.

If the company is the subsidiary of a bigger and stronger company, this figure may not be so relevant.

Friends Provident, Sun Alliance, Britannic Assurance, Colonial Mutual, Clerical Medical, Sun Life and Guardian Financial all had free asset ratios of under 10 per cent in 1994 — the latest for which figures are available.

Clerical Medical is being merged with Halifax Life, while Sun Alliance is going through a merger with Royal. Friends Provident is considering its options for the future, which might include a takeover or a demutualisation.



## COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH  
Personal Finance  
Editor

## Supermarket sweep for investors

**K**enneth Clarke is obviously a secret fan of Tesco. Shortly after the supermarket chain announced that its new loyalty card would be paying a 5 per cent interest rate on deposits, the Chancellor, an unashamed trencherman, acted to make this offer to look even better.

Those previously faithful to other chains will begin to haunt Tesco's aisles, not so much for the foodie delights as for the generous rate of return paid by the new financial services department. For the sure, extra sales of groceries will more than compensate for the interest rate bill.

In spite of this week's base rate cut, the Tesco Clubcard Plus rate is fixed until the end of the year. The building societies, meanwhile, are in a quandary. Caught off-guard by the Chancellor's surprise base rate reduction, they were, at first reluctant to decrease their mortgage rates. They are now equally hesitant to drop savers' rates. But these qualms will be short-lived.

The four top-ten societies that are en route to the stock market, and preparing to make themselves alluring to shareholders have no wish to see their margins further squeezed. These aspiring plc's want the crucial interest rate margin between loan and investment rates to stay at its current level of about 2 per cent. The Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock are also sure in the knowledge that their customers will not be inclined to stray for fear of losing their payouts.

Those societies engaged in a love affair with mutuality may be slower to lower their investment rates. But they too have no desire to see their margins grow still slimmer.

Besides being an opportunity for Tesco, this latest rate cut may be the chance for Direct Line, to date better known for car cover, to make the hit in savings that it has achieved in insurance. So far, deposits have not arrived with the speed of the little red phone. Now Direct Line's savings division has moved to increase, rather than decrease, some of its savings rates. This kind of competition may ensure that the societies decide to trim a little less from their already anorexic rates.

## System taxes your patience

THE anomalies and inconsistencies in the self-assessment tax system that have already come to light would fill a small volume. This week, two further examples have been discovered. One benefits the self-employed (a first), the other makes their lives more difficult.

As we report on page 32, the self-employed who contribute to a pension plan before July 1, backdating the payment to 1995-96, can reduce their tax bills by 40 per cent of the amount invested. The tax will finally be payable but not until 1998. In brief, an interest-free loan from the Inland Revenue.

This loophole may console a few parents applying for student grants for their children. As a result of one part of government having no idea of what the others are doing, local education authorities are continuing to ask for a 1996-97 schedule D tax assessment form. This provides proof of the parent's income, crucial to the whole application.

However, as Geoff Edwards, of Grant Thornton, the accountancy firm, points out, it is impossible to produce this document, as no such assessments will be issued this year, in the self-assessment transition period.

Rumour has it that the authorities were warned earlier this year that the assessments would not be available. If officialdom cannot cope with the rigours of self-assessment, what chance is there for the ordinary taxpayer?

## Protecting the public

THIS week Richard Youard, the Investment Ombudsman, revealed that he had paid out £220,000 in claims to wronged investors. A significant, but undisclosed percentage of this sum, went to the customers of one firm, whose identity is also under wraps.

The mysterious firm's advisers put clients into high-risk schemes, although most had specified the reverse. Staff were acting under duress, fearful for their jobs. One adviser questioned by the Ombudsman's office, remarked that his "hands would have been chopped off" if he had not followed "the party line".

This firm is now being investigated by one of the industry's watchdogs. But this is not enough.

The firm continues to operate, evidently with official authorisation. Unaware of its reputation, new clients could be entrusting their savings to its care. This secrecy is shielding only the firm's directors, not the public. It is a serious flaw in the system of investor protection.



MasterCard seeks blossoming sales with a new campaign

## MasterCard goes for goal in Euro 96

AS EURO 96 kicks off today MasterCard, its sponsor, will be hoping to score a few goals of its own. A new advertising campaign launched this week attempts to persuade us that we can use our MasterCard as much as our Visa wherever we want.

MasterCard/Access accounts for 40 per cent of the UK market and Visa 60 per cent. George Strachan, senior vice president (Europe) of MasterCard International, said: "Many people do not realise that the MasterCard logo is actually on their credit card. Ninety-five per cent of the product is used at home."

We need to show people that MasterCard is understood and accepted globally."

The move comes at a time of a few on-pitch scuffles among the card providers themselves.

American companies, such as Advanta, People's Bank and soon to launch Capital One, are muscling in on the UK market with low-cost, no-frills cards. People's Bank has a 14.4 per cent APR and no annual fee.

The reaction of other issuers is twofold. First, rates have been lowered but only for new customers and only for an initial period. NatWest offers

new customers 12 per cent APR until August next year. The rate then rises to the normal 22.9 per cent. Secondly, issuers are expanding incentives and loyalty schemes. Last month Barclaycard joined NatWest in giving cardholders Air Miles.

Mark Austin, of RBS Advanta, says: "Many of the cards with incentive to spend are just a transaction tool, a form of debit card. We believe credit cards should be a cheap way to borrow. Our competitors do not want to get into a pricing war but they may have to. If customers move to a low-rate card, the issuers

will be left with the unprofitable customers — those who pay off their bill in full. So they will have to rethink the loyalty schemes, and logically you should gain points for how much you pay, not in transactions but in borrowing."

Like any loyalty scheme, you have to be a big spender to get the rewards. With Midland's Choice, you can reclaim the annual card fee if you spend £2,200. With Barclay Card's Profile, if you spend £21,000 you get two tickets to see Grease.

SARAH JONES

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All forenames

Address in full

Postcode

Date of Birth

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Signature  Date

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6 If buying for a (great) grandchild, give name of the parent/guardian above

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Anne Ashworth on bonuses for dormant accounts

## A fortune revived



A fortune lies in forgotten building society accounts. Sometimes the owners of these savings may not even be aware that the money exists. Fond grandparents will often open accounts for baby grandchildren but fail to inform them later that the investment has been made.

Although some societies will go to considerable lengths to alert customers with unused accounts, these letters do not always reach the saver.

Jaqueline Clay, a public relations consultant, discovered only two months ago that she had £525 in a National & Provincial Building Society Instant Reserve account. The account was opened at her birth in 1972 by her grandparents. However, the illness and subsequent death last year of her grandfather meant that the account had been overlooked.

At first, Miss Clay believed that she was entitled to benefit from the Abbey National's £1.35 billion takeover of the N&P. As an investor of more than two years' standing with the society, she would be in line to receive a £750 cash payment, plus 7 per cent of her balance in cash or shares.

However, she began to question her eligibility when she unearthed a sheaf of correspondence from N&P, stating that her account had been forfeited under a mysterious "Rule 9". The ambiguous details in the takeover prospectus added to her doubts. Miss Clay said: "I was ready to believe I would be excluded."



Jaqueline Clay was unaware of an N&P account set up by her grandparents

As I had already lost out to the tune of £1,000 in the Cheltenham & Gloucester deal, my brother had had C&G accounts which were held in trustee names. When the funds were transferred into new accounts, the old accounts were closed and our status as two-year savers disappeared."

This week, however, the N&P confirmed that anyone with forfeited accounts containing £100 or more would qualify as a two-year saver.

A spokeswoman explained that Rule 9 was not intended to deprive investors of their takeover rights, or of their

cash, but as a protection against fraud. She explained that all sums of more than £100 in dormant accounts were swept into the society's reserves. If the investor wished subsequently to use the account, he or she would have to provide proof of identity.

In November, the Halifax Building Society will be writing to members, informing them of their balance of their accounts at November 25, 1994, and reminding them that they must restore their accounts to the required level by the extror-

dinary general meeting in February 1997. In the early Nineties, the Halifax moved all small dormant accounts into one large account. But it has recently reopened the accounts because some investors with several small accounts may have £100 or more invested with the society and so qualify to benefit for free shares.

Shares will be distributed to every member whose name and address is known to the Halifax. However, the society will retain shares where the post office has returned the last two mailings sent to the saver.

## Woolwich outlines flotation payout terms

AS SPECULATION continues that the Prudential and Woolwich remain in talks about a takeover, the building society carries on with its progress towards a planned flotation next year.

Its latest move is to publish a series of leaflets, available free in 410 branches, that explain how qualifying members who have died since the end of last year or who do so before the actual conversion date are, in most cases, protected. The Woolwich has also outlined the terms of

the variable payout for many of the 3.5 million qualifying savers and borrowers. All qualifying members will receive a standard number of free shares worth around £750. However, members of two years' standing or more will receive another parcel of free shares, provided they have an overall account balance of more than £1,000 on two key dates. These are December 31, 1995, and the date of the special general meeting, which is expected to be in the first half of next year.

Minimum overall balance to be taken into account when allocating extra shares is £1,000 and the maximum is £50,000.

In view of speculation surrounding the Pru and Woolwich, first flagged in *The Times* in April, Donald Kirkham, acting group chief executive, said: "I would like to take this opportunity to reassure members that the society's conversion proposals are firmly on track."

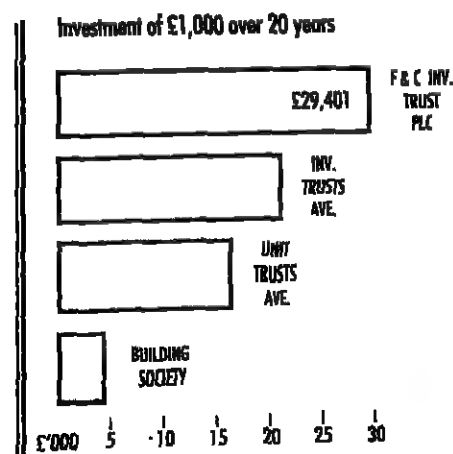
ROBERT MILLER

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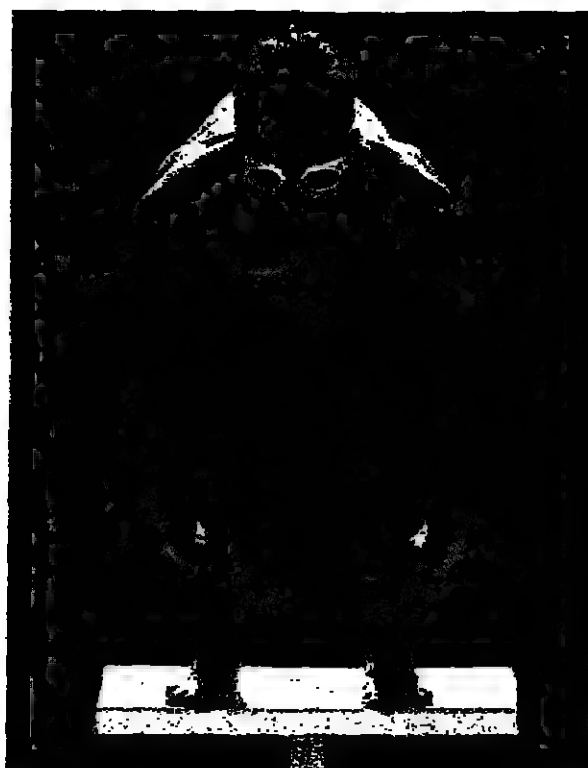
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\*Source: Mercury. All figures are to 1st June 1996 based on the selling price with net income reinvested. Since launch in August 1993 the Fund has achieved a total return of 21.9%. Comparative ranking: Mercury Unit Trust Emerging Markets sector (excluding single country and regional funds). The 2% discount applies to the offer price of units. The value of investments may fluctuate and is not guaranteed. Past performance is no guarantee of future performance. Please note that this is a high-risk fund and is therefore suitable only for those investors prepared to accept the above-average volatility and risk inherent in emerging markets investment. Changes in exchange rates may cause the value of an investment to fluctuate. This advertisement relates to the packaged products only and is issued by Mercury Fund Managers Ltd (regulated by IMRO) and the Personal Investment Authority. The unit trust management arm of Mercury Asset Management plc (regulated by IMRO) is 33 King William Street, London EC4A 3DF. For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded. We will not disclose any of your details outside Mercury, its associated companies and agents. We may write to tell you about other Group products if you would prefer not to receive such details, please write to us.



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Israel Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu must keep the economy buoyant and have a firm hold on inflation

## Peace chase in Israel

**Robert Miller on the vital timetable to build in a dividend for would-be investors**

Political leaders elected to form a government generally do so with haste to assume high office and at the same time to mop any fevered stock market brows. In Israel they do things differently. Their incoming Prime Minister, in this case Benjamin Netanyahu, has a rather generous 45 days in which to form his Government.

But Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu does not have time on his side. He must indicate soon how he intends to take the Middle East peace process forward and how he will keep the economy buoyant while monitoring inflationary pressures. A healthy Israeli stock market is vital to the growing band of emerging market fund managers and their followers who are investing in the Near-East region. There is undoubtedly a peace dividend to be factored into the renewed investment interest in the region. But it also helped considerably when Israel last year joined the Morgan Stanley index of emerging markets. This

makes it a must for a fund that uses this particular index as a performance benchmark.

The Tel Aviv stock exchange dominates the region, which includes Turkey, in both size and liquidity. Its market capitalisation of \$35 billion compares with Egypt's \$6 billion and Jordan's \$5 billion. The Beirut exchange, which has recently reopened for business, has only four quoted companies with a collective worth of less than \$500 million. That figure, however, will leap to more than \$2 billion by the end of the year when Solidere, a real estate company, joins the market.

Tristan Clube, a director of Martin Currie, whose £65 million Emerging Markets unit trust has a 4 per cent exposure to the Near-East and which also runs a \$20 million offshore Near East Opportunities fund for institutional investors, says the recent

flotation on the Cairo market of the state-owned Nasr City, a real estate company, was very successful. The issue was helped considerably by a government underwriting and a heavy oversubscription. The result was a 25 per cent rise in the share price in the first two weeks alone.

Access to the nascent Palestinian economy through quoted companies is at present only possible through companies such as the Tel Aviv-listed Koor, the Israeli electronics to property conglomerate which has an exclusive cement contract with Gaza. Another example is Jordan Cement, listed on the Amman exchange.

The Israeli export-led economic success story extends not just to its neighbours but further afield to Asia and Eastern Europe and that looks set to continue. Roger Hornet, head of the Israel desk at

Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker that sponsored the launch two years ago of the £100 million Israel Fund, an investment trust, says that the Tel Aviv market "is at the cheapest level I have ever seen". Evidence of that is that the shares in the Israel Fund are currently trading at a 20 per cent discount to the net asset value of the shares in the underlying portfolio.

Mr Hornet adds: "The Israeli economy grew at 7 per cent last year and it was felt that a target GDP range of 6-6.5 per cent for this year was achievable. That has now been revised to 5.3 per cent. The appointment of an Israeli Cabinet is absolutely crucial and particularly the Finance Minister's post." The general feeling among fund managers is that Dan Meridor is the preferred candidate to Ariel Sharon. "But either way," says Mr Hornet, "it is essential that the Finance Ministry introduces a package of budget measures to keep the lid on inflationary pressures."

## New markets attract Schroders

Schroders will call heavily on its offices in ten emerging-market countries and 50 experts dedicated to such investments for the launch of its new investment trust unveiled today.

The Schroder Emerging Countries Investment trust, which will be officially launched on July 2, will complement the group's existing £277 million Global Emerging Markets unit trust.

John Govett, chairman of Schroder Investment Management, says: "The IMF has forecast that emerging countries will have annual GDP growth more than double that



of developed countries over the next three years.

"We believe that this should translate into superior returns for equity investors. For investors wanting to participate in these markets, a collective investment vehicle is much the most sensible approach."

Save & Prosper, another large investment and unit trust manager, has largely

eschewed the emerging markets theme for the relaunch of its £150 million Scotbills unit trust. It will henceforth be known as the S&P Growth fund. S&P says its new fund, which is fully PEPable, will have no initial or exit charge but will levy an annual fee of 1.5 per cent. It adds that its relaunched unit trust "is an assault on the no-load tracker fund market".

Schroders: 0800 002 000  
S&P: 0800 829 100.

□ HSBC has sent out 13,000 letters to investors and financial advisers warning that its new HSBC PEP Plus has not

guaranteed to return the capital invested. The PEP, launched last month, was designed to feed into a new Dublin fund and qualified as a single company PEP and a general PEP. The brochure said capital was "secure" and it aimed to provide 133 per cent of any rise in the market.

Later promotional material included a newspaper article which said the capital was guaranteed. After discussions with IMRO, the regulator, the company has sent out letters to clarify the position. Call 0800 262 115.

ROBERT MILLER



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## Taxation loophole can delay payment

Special provisions to smooth the way for the new self-assessment tax rules have created a one-off loophole for the self-employed.

Towry Law, the Berkshire-based firm of independent financial advisers, has spotted an opportunity for the self-employed to reduce their tax bill using their pension.

If you make a pension payment before July 1 this year you can reduce your 1995-96 tax bill, due on July 1, by up to 40 per cent of the pension investment.

And the Inland Revenue will repeat the tax reduction when calculating this year's instalments, due at the end of January and July next year.

Eventually the tax will have to be paid at the end of January 1998, but the delay means that you get the equivalent of an interest-free loan of 20 per cent of the pension contributions for a year and 20 per cent for six months.

For example, a £10,000 pension payment will reduce your tax bill by £4,000 and this amount does not have to be paid back for two years.

Leila Sangar, head of private client tax services at Towry Law, says: "This too good to be true offer from the Inland Revenue will not be repeated in future years. This is a last chance to set full pension relief against your tax."

A leaflet explaining this opportunity is available free to readers of *The Times* by phoning Towry Law: 0800 521196.

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## Lenders vie to offer lowest home-loan rates

The property market was given a strong boost this week after the cut in base rates and the subsequent wave of mortgage rate reductions. The 0.25 per cent drop in the base rate immediately prompted a mad scramble by the high street lenders to set new loan rates. Some of the biggest lenders chose to pass on the entire 0.25 per cent cut to their borrowers — bringing rates down from about 7.24 per cent to 6.99 per cent — some such as Direct Line and the Coventry decided to cut even further, to close to 6 per cent.

The monthly cost of a 6.99 per cent 25-year £60,000 repayment mortgage will now be £402, £9.13 less than it was previously. A year ago the same type and size of mortgage would have cost about £450. This is the fifth time loan rates have been cut in the last 12 months and may be the final trigger for real recovery in the housing market. Although the Halifax has recently up-

graded its forecast for house prices rises over the year from 2 per cent to 5 per cent, housing analysts have expressed concern that the recovery may be fragile. There has not yet been a big increase in the number of transactions.

Lenders believe that the key to real recovery in the housing market will be the number of people in negative equity. According to the Woolwich, about 960,000 households have loans which are greater than the value of their property. The society calculates it would take a 9 per cent rise in prices to spring everyone from the negative-equity trap. The Halifax Building Society led the way in cutting rates, bringing its standard rate down from 7.25 per cent to 6.99 per cent. Mike Blackburn, Halifax chief executive, said: "This latest cut represents a further 'shot in the arm' for the housing market and consumer confidence in general." Not all Halifax borrowers will feel the benefit of the cut straight away. Half

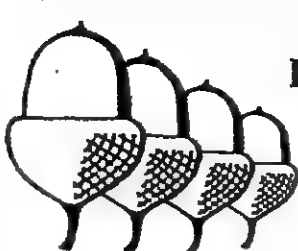
of the two million existing borrowers with variable rate mortgages will see their rates cut in August, while the rest who are on annual review (where rates change once a year) will have their rates adjusted early in 1997.

Other societies and banks which cut rates included the Northern Rock which also dropped its rate to 6.99 per cent, and the Abbey National which cut its rates by 0.25 per cent. Abbey National borrowers with loans of over £100,000 will now pay 6.94 per cent. Those with loans of between £60,000 and £99,999 will pay 6.99 per cent, while those with loans of less than £60,000 will pay 7.04 per cent. Existing borrowers will have to wait until September for the rate cut. The Woolwich also chose to cut its rates to 6.99 per cent, but said: "Savings rates are a key part of the delicate balancing act that all societies are

now having to perform. If a base rate cut affects mortgages, it will inevitably affect savings. But we are aware that savers can find an alternative home for their savings."

Again existing Woolwich borrowers will have to wait until August before they feel the benefit of any change. N&P also cut its rate to 7.04 from 7.29 per cent, and the Alliance & Leicester cut rates to 6.99. Bradford & Bingley, whose rate was 6.99 per cent, cut to 6.74 per cent. Nationwide and C&G did not immediately cut rates, but said they were keeping the situation under review. As more lenders move to cut rates, the pressure on those holding firm will intensify. Nationwide, which recently launched a package of mutual benefits for its borrowers and savers, said its rate was still lower than the Halifax's at 6.74 per cent.

CAROLINE MERRELL



### A GUIDE TO INVESTMENT & UNIT TRUSTS

PART 4

## Smaller savers keep in rhythm

Helen Pridham considers unit and investment trusts as alternatives to normal savings accounts

For anyone wishing to save money regularly, two attractive options are unit and investment trust savings plans. Their cost, potential returns and flexibility put them in a league of their own. If accessed via a personal equity plan (PeP), they are tax-free.

Roger Jennings of M&G believes there is a large market of people who do not have lump sums to invest, but who would like to save regularly to build up some capital.

Most small savers who do not want to get locked into long-term endowments or pension plans end up stashing odd sums of money in the building society. But many societies are no longer keen on accepting small sums and even those that do cannot offer very high returns in the current low interest rate climate. Unit and investment trust companies do not discriminate against small savers.

On the contrary, they are prepared to accept regular savings as low as £20 to £25 a month, usually on the same terms as if you have £1,000 or more to invest. For a small monthly outlay you have access to a wide range of trusts investing in UK and overseas markets and to top fund managers such as Perpetual, Morgan Grenfell and Schroders.

Recent performance figures from Micropal show that £50 a month saved over the past five years (£3,000 in total) in the average UK income and growth unit trust would now be worth £4,106, a gain of 38 per cent. Tax-free returns, if you invest through a PeP, are even higher. Savers who want to minimise risk could choose a corporate bond or cash unit trust.

When you start a unit or

investment trust savings plan, you are normally encouraged to set up a standing order or direct debit to make the administration easy, but you are not forced to save for any specified period.

Research by Barclays Unicorn has found that people particularly like this aspect of the schemes.

"They liked the idea of the discipline of regular savings, but in these uncertain times they also valued the fact that they could stop their contributions without penalty if needs be," said Paul Ashby, Barclays Unicorn marketing manager. Many people continue saving for lengthy periods. M&G recently checked on a group

Because of the small sums involved initially, it can also take two or three years for the fund managers to recoup the cost of even a short burst of advertising their schemes.

Attitudes may be changing, however. Companies are beginning to see the merit in the bank and building society approach of trying to catch 'em young.

Paul Ashby agrees: "If you can attract people via a savings scheme initially, there is more likelihood that when they do have lump sums to invest, they will come to you with that money too."

"Savings schemes help us to sell to a younger age group than we normally attract — people in their late 30s to early 40-year-olds who don't have lump sums at present. When they do get a bit extra they tend to add it to their existing holdings."

Charges on savings schemes are usually the same as for lump sums. Some investment trust managers have no initial charges at all, even when the scheme involves a PeP wrapper. They include Abrust, Finsbury Asset Management and Personal Assets.

With unit trust plans, the usual charge of 5 per cent is deducted initially, although regular savers who want a PeP can opt for M&G's Managed Growth Fund, which has no front-end charge, or Save & Prosper Direct's Growth Fund, which is also no-load.

One of the cheapest regular savings plans is HSBC's Footsie tracker plan, which has no initial charge and a 1 per cent annual charge. At M&G and HSBC the minimum monthly saving is £50, while Save & Prosper sets a £35 minimum.

### For a small monthly outlay you have access to a wide range of trusts

that had started saving in 1985 and found that after ten years more than half were still doing so. Besides being able to stop and start your savings at your discretion, there are also no restrictions on when you can cash in.

Although it is best to regard any investment in shares as a medium to long-term investment of five years or more, it is often reassuring to know you can get at your money if you need it.

One of the reasons savings plans are not promoted more is the low commissions they yield to salesmen and financial advisers, compared with other forms of savings.



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## Anne Ashworth explains the state pension ground rules



PENSIONS GUIDE

## Check that the State pays up

The basic state pension may be a less than handsome sum, but its rules are rich in complication and seeming contradiction. In our postbag this week, we have received several letters from our readers querying the rules for wives' pensions, in particular those relating to women who are receiving a state pension in their own right.

Philip Burman, of Cheltenham, writes:

"For some years, we received the full married couple's pension, currently £97.75, including the dependent's payment of £36.60. When my wife reached 60 she qualified for a pension of £28 a week, based on her own National Insurance contributions. I thought that we could continue to



When Vic Walker is 65 his wife Margaret's pension is lost

receive the extra payment. But not so. My wife was given the married woman's pension of £36.60 but lost all entitlement to the pension in her own right. In other words, the contributions that she had made stood for nothing. I cannot believe that this can be fair."

Vic Walker, Hull, also writes:

"I retire in November this year when I reach 65. My wife, who is already 65, is receiving her own state pension of £15.89 a week. When we asked for a forecast of my pension, I was told that I would receive £97.75 a week. My wife's own pension disappears. We find this hard to accept, especially as, when we turned into a local radio phone-in, it seemed as though some wives were continuing to receive their own pension, on top of the full married couple's pension, while others were not."

The married women's state pension rules can often appear illogical today because they hark back to a time when husbands were the breadwinners and few wives worked outside the home. We are now in a period of transition. The generation of working women who can expect full state pensions are several decades away from retirement. Thousands of those retiring now have patchy contribution records but can still claim some state pension, based on their own endeavours.

The rules work like this: When a married woman reaches 60, she may be entitled

to a Category A basic state pension, but only if she has made sufficient full-rate National Insurance contributions. To the chagrin of many wives who only become aware of this fact when they celebrate their 60th birthday, reduced rate married women's NI contributions do not count towards a pension. The state pension is taxed as the wife's income.

If a wife has never had any paid work, then she may qualify for a Category B married woman's pension of £36.60, based on her husband's contributions, but only if he has already reached 65. A husband can also receive the same sum for a wife under 60 if she is dependent on him.

Many women who are collecting pensions, based on their own contributions, are bewildered to find that these pensions are taken away, if they are less than the married woman's pension. Although they may be getting more money, they still feel they have been robbed of the pension which they have built up through their own efforts. They have been left in the same situation as if they had never entered paid work.

The Department of Social Security says that no-one may receive both a married woman's pension and her own state pension. A spokesman explained that it was the Social Security philosophy that you should not be left worse off than you were. He commented: "If the Category B pension is higher than the Category A pension already being paid to a woman, then she will receive the Category B pension."

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## WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

## Why is the Halifax dragging its feet over conversion?

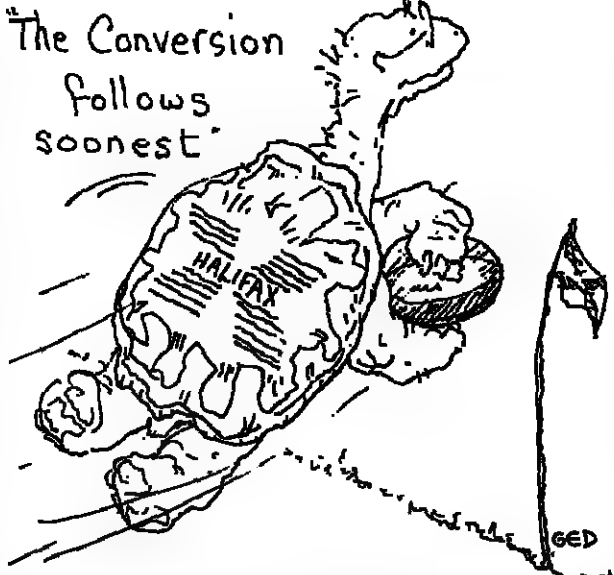
From Mr W. Sholto  
Sir, Congratulations to your correspondent Serge Lourie (Weekend Money Letters, May 25) and his Halifax Action Group for raising the issue of the extraordinary slow pace at which the conversion to the status of bank is being pursued by Halifax Building Society.

As Mr Lourie points out, the conversion was first announced in late 1994 and 18 months later, the building society is talking about effecting the change, possibly, in another 15 months. In other words, they contemplate that demutualisation will take a whole 33 months, or two years and nine months. No conversion has ever been as slow as this before, and compared with the Halifax, a tortoise must be considered to be a rather swift species of animal. Why such a long delay?

I should like to have put that question to my local Leeds Building Society branch, but cannot because it has been closed after being taken over by the Halifax. Nor could I get any answer from the local Halifax, perhaps because they do not want to hear that question being asked once again.

"We simply do not believe that it should take over two years and three months to prepare for a vote in February 1997," says Mr Lourie. Very many savers who are inconvenienced by the ultra-slow demutualisation will endorse his words, especially since a much more rapid change was originally envisaged. Is the Halifax in worse trouble than we had suspected? Whatever

The Conversion follows soonest.



the cause — which has not been communicated to savers — there is no doubt that many of them have suffered losses as a result of the undue delay, which incidentally gives the lie to many reports in Weekend Money suggesting that savers would benefit if their money was in building societies that demutualised.

No one should assume that the Halifax is acting dishonestly in prolonging the de-

mutualisation, yet suspicions do grow with the inordinately lengthy process of conversion. Perhaps Halifax, when it eventually achieves the coveted status of bank, should adopt a coat of arms with the Euro-speak motto *confutur demutui* to reflect its protracted evolution.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM SHOLTO,  
Laurandria,  
Tudor Road,  
Barnet, Herts.

## Inefficiency over tax treatment by managers of friendly societies

From Mr J.P. Wharton  
Sir, As another disappointed investor in "tax-free" friendly societies funds, I welcome your publicity (Friendly societies lose some friends, May 18) in the hope that it may encourage the manager to try harder. However, I was not encour-

aged by the fact that the Family Assurance Society recently had to reissue tax statements for annuity bonds because the rate of income tax had to be corrected (a change which took place last November).

The cost of this administra-

## Banks and junk mail

From Lieutenant-Colonel D.G. Tweed  
Sir, I have been a customer of my bank since January 1935. Today, I have received by first-class post a typed note (from a branch which does not hold my account) which said as follows:

"We have received a letter to be forwarded to you. If we do not hear from you within seven days, we will forward the letter to you and an administrative fee of £5 will be made."

By telephone, I established that some branches are grouped together and my letter had been typed on another's headed paper!

Lots of apologies; but it is now the policy of that bank to write such a letter because customers have been complaining of getting "junk mail" forwarded by their banks.

This must be a doubtful solution to the bank's problem. I am glad to say that my own branch manager will use his discretion and I hope the bank would reconsider its policy.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID TWEED,  
9 Upper Old Park Lane,  
Farnham, Surrey.

div error will be borne, directly or indirectly, by the investors.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WHARTON,  
Myrtle Cottage,  
6 Carlew Terrace,  
Devoran,  
Truro, Cornwall.

## Savers hit again as loan rates fall

Rather late in the day building societies are beginning to express concern about their savers. After the last base rate cut in March, providers across the board reduced their savings rates to a 50-year low. Now, after Thursday's further 0.25 per cent cut, several lenders claim that concern for investors may stop them cutting the borrowers' rate. But do not hold your breath: lenders that have cut their mortgage rates hint that they will have to sacrifice savers yet again.

"Savings rates are a key part of the delicate balancing act that all societies are now having to perform. But a cut in mortgages will inevitably affect savings," said a spokeswoman for the Woolwich.

Abbey National, which initially announced that it would not lower its mortgage rate because it had 10 million savers to consider, said it is a matter of competition. Margaret Schwarz, chief economist, said: "Competition is as fierce in the savings market as in mortgages. If

one provider cuts rates, others will have to follow. We are keenly aware that there is competition in the savings market from unusual sources like the new Tesco card. But the chances are that cuts will have to come, though possibly only on certain products."

Northern Rock claims its cost efficiency in mortgage lending means there is no pressure to cut savings rates in any great hurry, while the Coventry says that for once they have several months to review the situation, since the new mortgage rate does not start until August.

As if other providers, who have yet to cut mortgage rates, claim they are trying to strike a balance between mortgage and savings rates. One area of savings that will be affected with or without lenders cutting rates is fixed-rate accounts. John Gully, head of corporate affairs at the Portman, said: "The base rate cut will reduce the return societies can get on fixed-rate investments and that

reduction will be reflected in new fixed-rate products. Once we have filled the quota on our current bond, for example, we will have to bring our fixed rate down. So if you are thinking of getting a fixed rate, do it quickly."

Some providers believe the savings market has already been disrupted enough over the past year. John Milton, National Counties manager, said: "Merger speculation means some societies have benefited from short-term, small accounts. Meanwhile, there are many savers locked into societies waiting for their merger or conversion bonus. If other societies want to attract investors they will have to hold on to good rates. If they are not careful they could lose funds to other investments, like equities."

Mortgage rates are at a 50-year low but savers have taken the brunt of that. A middle-band instant-access account currently pays just 2.36 per cent net.

SARAH JONES

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1996 Low Company				1996 High Low Company			
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price
120	26	Hardwood Ad	1102	48	169	Urbic Bunt	475
26	46	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
46	100	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
100	180	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
180	250	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
250	350	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
350	450	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
450	550	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
550	650	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
650	750	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
750	850	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
850	950	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
950	1050	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
1050	1150	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
1150	1250	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
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1650	1750	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
1750	1850	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
1850	1950	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
1950	2050	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
2050	2150	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
2150	2250	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
2250	2350	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
2350	2450	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
2450	2550	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
2550	2650	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
2650	2750	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
2750	2850	Lowwood	245	169	169	Adams Alston	21
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## GOLF

# Finalists confound pundits as Giner and Wiggins lose

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IF YESTERDAY morning, canvassing had gone on for the most likely finalists in the Amateur Championship, then the favoured names would probably have been Robert Wiggins, the Englishman, and Ivo Giner, from Spain. Wiggins, who comes from Slaley Hall, outside Newcastle, had played well in two important amateur events in England and won a third before heading north, while the ball-striking and power of Giner were just two of his assets.

So much for form. Giner had to leave the magnificent stage of the Ailsa course when he was defeated on the 19th hole of his quarter-final match by Roger Beames. And then

Wiggins lost to Warren Bladon in a semi-final.

So, today's 36-hole final will be between Beames, a losing semi-finalist last year, and Bladon. If ever a man's achievements exceeded his ambitions then Bladon's have. He started the week wanting to do no more than qualify for the matchplay stages of this historic event; now he is 36 holes away from winning it.

The youthful ambitions of Fraser McLaughlan got no further than the quarter-finals when Bladon won by one hole. No prize is too high for the gawky young Scot, 17, who will now concentrate his efforts on the world boys junior championships in Japan in two weeks' time, but his putting, which had looked suspiciously frail the previous day, let him down on the last green when he took three of them from 30 feet.

Beames's long, flowing method bore little resemblance to the flat, rather quick swing of Steve Bodenheimer in the other semi-final. The word "deliberate" was not adequate for Bodenheimer, who was slow over the ball, fiddling and fidgeting. But, while he would have got few marks for style, he would have scored many for accuracy.

Beames raced into a two-hole lead. The American got one hole back by reaching the 7th in two during a run of holes in which Beames seemed to hit too many shots out to the right, but, on the 8th, Bodenheimer three-putted. Beames, his power beginning to tell, moved strongly ahead and won by 3 and 2.

Bladon hit only four of the first 17 greens against Wiggins and took only ten putts on the front nine, twice chipping in. He was chipping and putting miraculously, probably using up a month's allocation of luck. He has a tendency when under pressure to drop his right shoulder and to push shots out to the right.

The trouble was that Wiggins could not put him under pressure. Wiggins, who has a pre-shot routine similar to Bodenheimer's in its regularity and complexity, only squared the match on the 14th when he holed a 30-foot putt. Before each putt, incidentally, he has four or five vigorous practice swings, as if he is giving the ball a wiggling. A beautifully flighted iron on the 15th gave him the lead for the first time.

Bladon squared the match on the 17th by pitching to two feet and then it all descended into nervousness. Wiggins drove far too far right into the green, hacked out and hit his third 20 yards past the flag. Bladon, whose second shot rolled over the green, appeared to thin his pick back so that the ball rolled 50 feet past the flag, in a notably undistinguished finish. Wiggins holed out in six. Bladon in five. Bladon will need to be much more accurate today.

Montgomery, positive character that he is, said that he was not writing himself off in this tournament, and that nobody else should, either. "It could have been a lot lower," he said. "I'll just have to do a bit better over the weekend."

"I'm definitely not looking at a place, I'm looking to win, and I think a couple of 67s will put me fairly close." Two 67s? If it was anybody else but the confident Montgomery, one would have concluded that the heat had gone to his head.

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## RACING: CECIL CELEBRATES SECOND FILLIES' CLASSIC SUCCESS OF SEASON

# Lady Carla stays in class of her own

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

WAFIC SAID'S recent decision to expand his racing interests has paid off handsomely. His Bosra Sham looked sure to be fated as Europe's outstanding three-year-old filly after her 1,000 Guineas victory but Lady Carla, sporting the same livery, staked her own claim to the accolade when running away with the Vodafone Oaks at Epsom yesterday.

It was a crushing performance from an animal bred for the occasion. And there

## BIG-RACE RESULT

4.05 VODAFONE OAKS (Group 1, 3-Y-O Fills, £200,000, 1m 4f 10yd)  
LADY CARLA b f (Caelan) - Shirley Superior (W. Saeed) 9.0 P. Saeed (100-30)  
P. Saeed ch f (Dessa) - Caelan (Godolphin) 9.0 P. Saeed (100-30)  
2. M. Saeed ch f (Dessa) - Caelan (Godolphin) 9.0 P. Saeed (100-30)  
3. M. Saeed ch f (Dessa) - Caelan (Godolphin) 9.0 P. Saeed (100-30)  
4. M. Saeed ch f (Dessa) - Caelan (Godolphin) 9.0 P. Saeed (100-30)  
5. M. Saeed ch f (Dessa) - Caelan (Godolphin) 9.0 P. Saeed (100-30)  
6. M. Saeed ch f (Dessa) - Caelan (Godolphin) 9.0 P. Saeed (100-30)  
7. M. Saeed ch f (Dessa) - Caelan (Godolphin) 9.0 P. Saeed (100-30)  
8. M. Saeed ch f (Dessa) - Caelan (Godolphin) 9.0 P. Saeed (100-30)  
9. M. Saeed ch f (Dessa) - Caelan (Godolphin) 9.0 P. Saeed (100-30)  
10. M. Saeed ch f (Dessa) - Caelan (Godolphin) 9.0 P. Saeed (100-30)

Richard Evans napped Lady Carla, while Robert Wright selected her at 10-1 in his Racing Ahead column

was added poignantly as Lady Carla distanced herself from Prickett, her former stablemate at Warren Place who was shut out by Dubai's Sheikh Mohammed's public divorce from Henry Cecil in October.

The outcome suggested that a fully-focused Cecil is more than a match for the expertise of Godolphin. "That was very exciting," the trainer said as he acknowledged a rapturous reception. "My filly had come to a peak and I knew she was ready for it. I can't tell you how much I'm enjoying the game at the moment."

Indeed, but for Mark Of Esteem, the 2,000 Guineas winner, also joining Godolphin's ranks, Cecil might have awoken this morning with the first three classics in the bag and Dushyant, the Derby favourite, to saddle today.

Yet the Newmarket-based trainer is not complaining. In an extraordinary display, he dwelt almost as long on Prickett's second place as on Lady Carla's triumph. "In some ways it is sad to have beaten Prickett," Cecil said. "She was running to a long, hard gallop to the winning post."

1988 Oaks winner, so she is like one of the family. I know it sounds selfish to think of her as one of mine because she has left, but I get fond of them all."

Lady Carla's victory was ruthlessly contrived by Pat Eddery, who has no peer when riding Epsom's switchback circuit on a staying horse. The jockey struck for home early in the straight, with Prickett, the 7-4 favourite, hard on his heels. But Eddery, who fully appreciated his mount's capabilities, forced Prickett into a long, hard gallop to the winning post.

The anticipated duel never materialised. "I knew mine was a waste of time," Eddery said, "but when I looked behind me in the final furlong I was amazed to see how far clear I was." Nine lengths was the official verdict but it could have been greater. To the end Prickett only just held the late flourish of Mezzogiorno for second, with Camperose finishing well for fourth.

Said, who gave 220,000 guineas for Lady Carla as a yearling, might actually have enjoyed the classic preamble.

Bosra Sham's Newmarket victory came only after a series of injury scares. But Cecil has fortified the naturalised Saudi businessman with a deal of optimism over Lady Carla. "My trainer was very confident. This victory is all down to him. The way he trained her for this day is wonderful. He is a star and I am very grateful to him."

In turn, the racing community is grateful that owners like Said continue to support the British scene despite higher levels of prize-money on the continent.

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Eddery eases Lady Carla down after her runaway success in the Vodafone Oaks at Epsom yesterday

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## THE DERBY

# Classic breeding can point way for Dushyantor

THE form book may point to the most open Vodafone Derby for years at Epsom this afternoon, but the bloodlines of the 21 runners tell a different story. Quite simply, DUSHYANTOR was born to race at Epsom and win the world's most famous classic.

Breeding is not everything, but the stamina and class possessed by the son of Sadler's Wells, combined with his progressive form, convince me the Khalid Abdulla-owned colt can provide Henry Cecil and Pat Eddery with their fourth success in the Blue Riband.

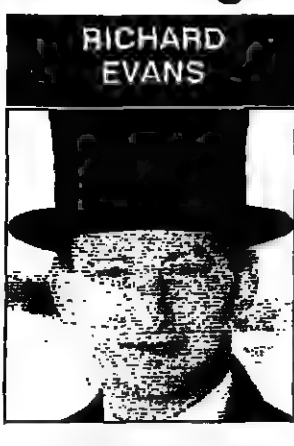
Dushyantor's lineage would have Debutts equine division purring with pleasure. His mother and grandmother were second in the Oaks, while his great grandmother, Noblesse, went one better in 1963.

His half-brother, Commander In Chief, won the Derby for the same connections three years ago while Rainbow Quest, closely related on his dam's side, won the group one Coronation Cup at Epsom in 1985. Dushyantor's paternal grandfather, the mighty Northern Dancer, sired Derby winners in Nijinsky, The Minstrel and Secretariat. The family motto might read: To The Epsom Derby.

Conceived in Ireland but born in Kentucky on April 11, 1993, it was not long before the bay colt impressed all who saw him. With Cecil having trained Commander In Chief, he was always favourite to inherit the most admired of Abdulla's yearlings and the ten-times champion trainer has long considered him his main Derby hope.

He ran once as a two-year-old, winning in a style which suggested better to come. This season, Dushyantor won a three-runner affair at Newmarket, before just failing to catch Glory Of Dancer in a falsey-run Dante Stakes.

His form and time performances are not outstanding. However, they were achieved in races not run to suit him.



RICHARD EVANS  
Racing Journalist of the Year

Today, for the first time, he will have an end-to-end gallop over a stiff mile and a half, which will see the Derby favourite come into his element.

Significantly, Dushyantor is considered to have more tactical speed than Commander In Chief. A notoriously lazy worker at home, he sparked earlier this week after Cecil deliberately walked him through the town at Newmarket on the way to the gallops.

The confidence behind

## THE EXPERTS' VIEW

RICHARD EVANS

1. DUSHYANTOR
2. Mystic Night
3. St Mewes

JULIAN MUSCAT

1. DUSHYANTOR
2. Double Leaf
3. Busy Flight

GERALD HUBBARD

1. EVEN TOP
2. Alhaarth
3. Busy Flight

THUNDERER

1. STORM TROOPER
2. Dushyantor
3. Busy Flight

Dushyantor has never been higher and, having recommended him two months ago when on offer at 33-1, I believe he will win decisively.

Strict adherents to the form book will opt for Even Top, runner-up in the 2,000 Guineas. The Newmarket classic was undeniably the best Derby trial and Mark Tompkins' unfashionably bred colt should lack nothing in stamina. However, he is a heavy-topped horse who looked ill at ease running into the Dip at Newmarket and is not certain to be suited by Epsom's canyons and undulations. His preparation has also been interrupted by a poisoned foot.

Alhaarth, the ante-post favourite throughout the winter, has disappointed this season. Although reported to have worked pleasingly of late, he is not certain to stay a mile and a half and his rider, Willie Carson, is hardly brimming with confidence.

Glory Of Dancer beat Dushyantor in the Dante Stakes, but Paul Kelleway's runner has had operations to both front ankles and could be the fancied runner most inconvenienced by the track and fast ground.

Those looking for an each-way interest may like to consider three runners at more generous prices. Jack Jennings was only a length behind Dushyantor at York, is bred to stay the trip and looks over-priced at 25-1.

Mystic Knight has improved with every race during his career and, after winning the Lingfield Derby Trial, could easily be in the shake-up. Roger Charlton, who won the race with Quest For Fame in 1990, has been pleased with his recent work and the colt will love the fast ground.

St Mewes is another to have thrived since being placed in three significant trials and, given his stamina, Lord Swaythling's colt could reach the frame.

Leading article, page 21

## Epsom's first lady comes under orders

A woman rides in the Derby for the first time. Alex Greaves is keen to do herself justice



Greaves and her Derby ride, Portuguese Lil, enjoy the Epsom sunshine before their big challenge

A year ago I rode at Epsom for the first time, finishing fifth in a handicap on Pride Of Penide. Nobody paid me much attention that day. This year has been different to say the least. The phone hasn't stopped ringing for the last fortnight.

Since I married David Nicholls two years ago, I've retained my maiden name in racing circles, but that's just because it's easier. Outside the racetrack, I'm Mrs Nicholls. I'm not trying to make any particular point by being the first woman to ride in the Derby, and I'm not a feminist. I'm just lucky to have been offered the ride.

Portuguese Lil was sent to David last summer, and even though I knew then that the intention was to run her in the Derby, it still hasn't sunk in that I'm going to make history today. Maybe I'll be a bag of nerves come 2 o'clock, but I'm just going out there to do my best and enjoy it, as it will probably be the only chance I get.

I won't be tucking into a huge breakfast this morning — just a cup of coffee — but that won't be because of nerves. I'm not one of the lucky ones that can eat anything, and it is a constant battle to maintain my riding weight at 8st 4lb. The long cold spell hasn't helped, and that front because it has reduced my chances to sweat the weight off, but now the warmer weather has arrived it should get a little easier.

David and I have stayed in a hotel in Epsom for the last two nights, which we wouldn't usually do, but we had to be here in time for yesterday morning's canter and it's a long way from our yard at Sessay, in North Yorkshire, to Epsom.

We'll meet the owners mid-morning and then go down to the course and finalise our tactics. The Derby is my first ride today, so I will not start getting ready until about one. There is a Ladies' changing room at Epsom, but I will be the only jockey using it so it should be the quietest place

on the course. I won't hang about there; I'll change as quickly as possible and head outside to join the other jockeys.

Portuguese Lil has plenty of pace, so she should be able to hold her own in the early stages. The fast ground won't bother her at all, and she's bred to stay, being by Master Willie, who was runner-up in the 1980 Derby, out of a mare who was by the 1977 Derby winner, The Minstrel.

I cantered Portuguese Lil around Tattenham Corner yesterday morning, although we had to go wide around the bend as the inside of the track was dotted off. She's a well-balanced filly and I think she'll handle the track at

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## ON MONDAY

Read Alex Greaves exclusively in *The Times* on Monday

twins, and watched videos of as many past Derbys as possible. I'm pretty well prepared, although they tell me that the first two furlongs will be the fastest I've ever gone. I know a lot of people think

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FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

**EPSON**  
THUNDERER  
1.45 Bowden Rose, 2.25 Storm Trooper, 3.10 Casual Water, 3.50 Horn Express, 4.25 Singespel, 5.00 Premier Bey, 5.50 ALMAHATTAH (nap).  
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.25 Dushyantor, 4.25 SINGESPEL (nap).  
GOING: GOOD DRAW: SF, HIGH NUMBERS BEST  
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING S/S

**3.50 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP**  
(£31,795: 1m 210yd) (16)  
402 (16) 05-4 ELA-ARISTONATI 42 (0.5) M. J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
403 (16) 105 BLUE ARROW 22 (0.5) J. Farnham 4-5-10  
404 (16) 006 HORN EXPRESS 12 (0.5) J. Farnham 4-5-10  
405 (16) 006 HORN EXPRESS 12 (0.5) J. Farnham 4-5-10  
406 (16) 006 HORN EXPRESS 12 (0.5) J. Farnham 4-5-10  
407 (16) 006 HORN EXPRESS 12 (0.5) J. Farnham 4-5-10  
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417 (16) 006 HORN EXPRESS 12 (0.5) J. Farnham 4-5-10  
418 (16) 006 HORN EXPRESS 12 (0.5) J. Farnham 4-5-10  
419 (16) 006 HORN EXPRESS 12 (0.5) J. Farnham 4-5-10  
420 (16) 006 HORN EXPRESS 12 (0.5) J. Farnham 4-5-10

**Swain looks first choice**  
EPSON CHANNEL 4  
1.45: Stakes should be kept to a minimum in this cavalry charge but Bowden Rose makes some appeal on her second to Top Banana over five furlongs at Newmarket seven days ago. Michael Blanshard's sprinter is definitely better over today's six furlongs, having won four times last year over the distance, including over Brighton's undulating track. Lennox Lewis is particularly well handicapped on his best form but has not won since his two-year-old days and the in-form Thatcherella — second in this race last year — could be a bigger danger.  
2.25: See above.  
3.10: Paul Cole entered the in-form Dancer so Sulfur for yesterday's much tougher graded stakes. Despite not being the best handicapped runner in this race, he looks well worth a bet in an uncompetitive race. The four-year-old gelding won with the minimum of fuss from Paradise Waters at Newbury three weeks ago, and the runner-up franked the form by winning at Bath recently. Aimee Cook is one of the best woman riders and, with Country Lover scoring with ease at Goodwood recently, Lord Huntingdon's runner should be thereabouts along with Hattatfeh.  
3.50: Hucy will be a leading fancy after completing a

**Hot weather. High pressure. Good ground. Now for the Storm.**  
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1. Have your bet on the Derby.  
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3. Your bet will be placed for you by our expert bettors.  
4. Alternatively, call our hotline (0990 524 524) and we'll tell you the best bets to make.  
5. Your bet will be placed for you by our expert bettors.  
6. Alternatively, call our hotline (0990 524 524) and we'll tell you the best bets to make.  
7. Your bet will be placed for you by our expert bettors.  
8. Alternatively, call our hotline (0990 524 524) and we'll tell you the best bets to make.  
9. Your bet will be placed for you by our expert bettors.  
10. Alternatively, call our hotline (0990 524 524) and we'll tell you the best bets to make.

**1.45 VODAFONE HANDICAP**  
(£18,400: 6f) (17 runners)  
101 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
102 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
103 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
104 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
105 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
106 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
107 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
108 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
109 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
110 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
111 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
112 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
113 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
114 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
115 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
116 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
117 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
118 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
119 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
120 (2) 0-0 SHAMANN 21 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10

**4.25 VODAFONE FORM FOCUS**  
(£106,560: 1m 410yd) (4)  
501 (2) 11-4 DE QUEST 41 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
502 (2) 11-4 DE QUEST 41 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
503 (2) 11-4 DE QUEST 41 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
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**DONCASTER**  
THUNDERER  
2.00 Greyhound Boy, 2.50 Mushahid, 3.20 Encore M/Lady, 3.55 Emu Coasting, 4.35 Bayrak, 5.10 Kid Ory.  
GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: SF-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST  
2.00 VODAFONE DERBY DAY HANDICAP  
(£4,110: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)  
1 2101 RYDAL EXPRESSION 8 (0.5) M. J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
2 6-4 GREYHOUND BOY 14 (0.5) M. J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
3 1-0 JIMMY 12 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
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20 4-4 MASHAHID 10 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10

**3.55 ST JOHN AMBULANCE MAIDEN STAKES**  
(£3,680: 5f) (10)  
1 0-0 SCOTT'S RISK 22 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
2 0-0 SCOTT'S RISK 22 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
3 0-0 SCOTT'S RISK 22 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
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20 0-0 SCOTT'S RISK 22 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10

**Hot weather. High pressure. Good ground. Now for the Storm.**  
(Storm Trooper's Derby: 6/1.)  
Call 0990 524 524  
1. Have your bet on the Derby.  
2. Call our hotline (0990 524 524) and we'll tell you the best bets to make.  
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5. Your bet will be placed for you by our expert bettors.  
6. Alternatively, call our hotline (0990 524 524) and we'll tell you the best bets to make.  
7. Your bet will be placed for you by our expert bettors.  
8. Alternatively, call our hotline (0990 524 524) and we'll tell you the best bets to make.  
9. Your bet will be placed for you by our expert bettors.  
10. Alternatively, call our hotline (0990 524 524) and we'll tell you the best bets to make.

**2.25 VODAFONE DERBY STAKES**  
(Group 1, 3-7-1: £253,100: 1m 410yd) (21 runners)  
RUNNERS AND RIDERS — SEE FACING PAGE  
3.10 PAKISTAN TOTE DIRECT APPRENTICES HANDICAP  
(£10,795: 1m 410yd) (14)  
201 (4) 0-0 CEREZ LE PASSAGE 81 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
202 (4) 0-0 CEREZ LE PASSAGE 81 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
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220 (4) 0-0 CEREZ LE PASSAGE 81 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10

**5.00 VODAFONE WOODCOCK STAKES**  
(£5,000: 2-7-0: £13,680: 6f) (8)  
101 (2) 11-4 DE QUEST 41 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
102 (2) 11-4 DE QUEST 41 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
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119 (2) 11-4 DE QUEST 41 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
120 (2) 11-4 DE QUEST 41 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10

**2.50 STONES BITTER HANDICAP**  
(£4,110: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)  
1 2101 RYDAL EXPRESSION 8 (0.5) M. J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
2 6-4 GREYHOUND BOY 14 (0.5) M. J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
3 1-0 JIMMY 12 (0.5) J. Nicholls 4-5-10  
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**4.35 WHITBY CLARING STAKES**  
(£2,950: 1m 4







CRICKET: INDIA RUE THEIR LUCK AS LATE DEVELOPER LEADS ENGLAND INNINGS

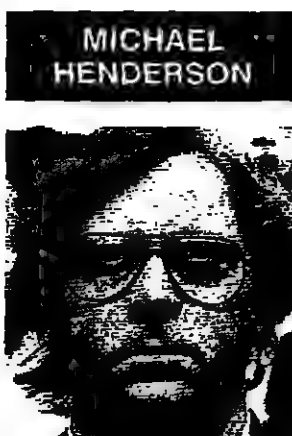
## Hussain comes of age as Test batsman

NASSER HUSSAIN did not attempt to disguise his feelings when he took his hundredth run yesterday. No sooner had he angled the ball down to third man than he began a ritual of public thanks and acknowledgement that lasted a full minute, turning his bat to all corners of the ground. As ovations go, this was one of the more heartfelt, and there were further cheers when he came off at the end.

For Hussain, who has a keen sense of his own worth, this innings was the breaching of a personal dam. "At last," he can say, "I have proved myself worthy." He was born in the same week as Michael Atherton, 28 years ago, made his Test debut at the same age, 21, and enjoyed similar acclaim as a young man. Their careers have diverged since then and it is a wiser cricketer altogether who resumes an acquaintance with the England captain that goes back to their school days.

In his eighth Test, seven years after his first, Hussain has at last begun to do justice to a talent that awaits complete fulfilment. There have been years and tantrums along the way, so nothing can rob him of the prize he clutched to his bosom in Birmingham. He will feel that, having made his first and most difficult Test hundred, there are many more within him. Mark Ramprakash, another contemporary, might not feel the same way, poor chap.

The highest praise one can pay Hussain is to say it was a mature Test match innings. The Indians behaved like charlies on the first day, notwithstanding the capricious nature of the pitch, and the English batting has not exactly been the soul of discretion. Hussain had to earn his runs against good seam bowling, and, by coaxing 98 from his last two partners, he made



At the Edgbaston Test match

sure that India began their second innings on the back foot.

To reach lunch unbeaten, surviving a challenging morning, was an achievement in itself. Srinath bowled superbly in that first session and five wickets, instead of two, would not have been misleading. Hussain enjoyed at least three moments of good fortune, most significantly when Darrell Hair judged — with immediate and surprising certainty — that the ball did not brush his glove or bat on the way through to Mongolia. The batsman was 14 at the time and the Indians did not forget it, going by their response to his moment of triumph five hours later.

It has been a good match so far not only for Hussain, but also for David Lloyd, the England coach. Hussain's performance vindicated his selection at No. 3, ahead of John Crawley, and, to show how cruelly cricket sometimes plays its hand, Crawley was out cheaply at Chelmsford as Hussain's innings was starting to take shape. It seems



An elated Hussain celebrates after compiling his long-overdue first Test century at Edgbaston yesterday

that Lloyd can do no wrong at the moment, so completely are his preferences and hunches coming off. By helping players to feel at home in the Test set-up, he deserves his good notices.

What Hussain has got to do now is confirm his right to the No. 3 position. Every team

needs its David Boons and England have not had one for some years. Since Mike Gatting made his last Test hundred at Adelaide in January last year, no fewer than seven men have tried there. Graeme Hick should really have made the spot his own and the hook he essayed

yesterday, eyes off the ball, was another reminder why he has not. Anyway, Hick is doing well at No. 5.

Growing up in public can be mighty hard. When he returned from a disappointing West Indies tour two years ago, Hussain was a marginal figure, marked down as "tem-

peramentally flawed" and unlikely to be given another chance. That he has come back and shown the world he is a changed man is something he can be proud of. Although it is better to withhold praise at times than bestow it extravagantly, Hussain certainly deserves his.

## Lloyd pounds Essex bowlers

BY IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Lancashire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 177 runs behind Essex.

GRAHAM LLOYD, who does not have a regular place in his county's batting order, played an innings against Essex yesterday that was bellicose in its intent. His unbeaten 227

included the fastest century of the season, made off 70 balls, and the most number of sixes in an innings, 12, by a Lancashire batsman. He and Stephen Titchard, who finished with 112, put on 332, a record for the county's fourth wicket. All that was missing was the presence of Lloyd's father, the England coach.

Lloyd had not scored a

century in the county championship for two years, which is one reason why he is regarded in certain quarters as a limited-over batsman. Another is that he is always included in this form of cricket, to which his natural game is well suited. If Atherton and Fairbrother had been able to play here, he would not have been chosen.

So Lloyd finds himself bracketed with Fairbrother as a one-day specialist, which can hardly help his career. Never afraid to hit the ball in the air, he reached both his half-century and century with ease, then twice drove such out of the ground and picked up Grayson, bowling left-arm spin, into the River Can. These, it should be emphasised, were conventional shots. There were also 22 fours in what was, not surprisingly, his highest score.

All this after Essex had batted on in the morning, Lewis reaching a half-century in his initial first-class match of the season. Lancashire then lost their first three wickets cheaply and appeared, even on this true pitch, to be in danger of following on. Wood, making his debut, was caught at the wicket and Crawley was taken at first slip off float, touching one that was slanted across him. Speak was bowled by Such as he made to sweep. Soon Lloyd was outcoursing Titchard, who chose to keep the ball on the ground and to bat with a resolution that others who went before him had not achieved. His century, his first of the season, came from 202 balls and included ten fours.

The partnership record that he and Lloyd broke was 324 by Archie McLaren and J. T. Tyldesley in 1904 against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge. Come the close, Lloyd had batted for three hours 41 minutes and, to judge by the way he played the final over, is looking to add considerably to his total this morning.

## Trescothick runs out of luck as Lee prospers

BY PAT GIBSON

TAUNTON (second day of four): Warwickshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 71 runs ahead of Somerset.

THE power of Shane Lee's strokeplay, which has now brought the young Australian 447 runs in his first six championship innings, turned out to be a double-edged sword for Somerset yesterday, just as they seemed to be taking control.

Lee, whose first-class average plummeted from 127 to 111 when he was out for 65, and Trescothick had put on 95 for the fifth wicket when Lee lifted a drive straight back down the pitch. Welch, the bowler, stuck out a despairing hand and deflected the ball into the stumps, with Trescothick out of his ground.

It was a cruel blow for Trescothick, who had been run out in similar fashion in the previous championship match, and Somerset, who went on to lose their last five wickets for 67 to concede a first-innings deficit of 13. Warwickshire had extended their advantage by 58 for the loss of Khan when a thunderstorm in mid-afternoon ended play.

Somerset had been looking for a substantial lead when Lee and Trescothick were taking the attack to the champions. Pollock seemed to be feeling his work-load and with Altree, a young left-arm seamer, so full of nerves on his championship debut that he twice conceded four wickets in his first over. Lee in particular took full advantage. There were 11 fours in his 65 off 97 balls and it was only his own composure which got him out, an extravagant extra-cover drive being brilliantly caught by Brown.

## Fleming keeps result in sight

BY JACK BAILEY

LEICESTER (third day of four): Kent, with all second-innings wickets in hand, lead Leicestershire by 78 runs.

NOTHING is certain in cricket. The BBC television commentator who suggested that England had already won the Test match by the evening of the first day will testify to that. Just as he was contemplating a large slice of humble pie (or, in his case, Yorkshire pudding) at tea-time yesterday, so were the Kent players who had suggested during the second day at Grace Road that this match would not go beyond a third.

The way things are going, it would last into a fifth day if there were one. What Kent thought was a pitch in the process of breaking up was nothing of the kind. The spinners have turned the ball more and more, but it has come through increasingly slowly. The batsman who wishes to stay and has a sound technique has every chance of doing so.

Then, as the man said, nothing is certain. For, where as it seemed that Ben Smith's crafted, grafted and undefeated innings of 174, spread over eight hours and 40 minutes, had put Leicestershire into a

lead of 107 and into a position from which they could not lose, so well did Matthew Fleming and David Fulton launch Kent's second innings that, with a day left, anything is still possible.

Fleming was forceful and Fulton supported him well. Their century opening partnership was hoisted in 20 overs and all the painstaking efforts of Smith and Pearson, whose stand of 89 for Leicestershire's ninth wicket had taken more than twice as long, were wiped away.

Leicestershire did not bowl well in the last three hours or so, but Fleming must be credited with taking full advantage. He raced past 50 from 52 balls, with two successive shots off the suffering Brimston, spared nothing remotely loose — and there was plenty of that — on his way to the seventh century of his career. Fulton reached his fifty just before Fleming, after a nervous period in the nineties, went to his hundred from 128 balls with three sixes and 12 fours.

Earlier proceedings had been taken ransom by Smith. Having tasted the cautious method on his way to a century on Thursday, he saw no good reason to change his diet. Pearson proved an equally obdurate ally, and although Parsons had been out after adding only seven runs to his overnight score, the last three Leicestershire wickets had added 133 runs before Fleming appeared in his first starting role, knocking over the last two batsmen.

Smith's innings was the highest of his career. For a natural stroke player, it was a monumental effort of self-denial and it deserved a better reward — better backing from his bowlers, especially the spinners, who could maintain neither line nor length.

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## YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

## Britannic Assurance county championship

## Essex v Lancashire

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Lancashire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 122 runs behind Essex.

ESSEX: First Innings  
G A Gooch c Austin b Cooley 101  
D D J Robinson lbw b Chappell 0  
A P Grayson b Keedy 129  
S G Lee c Ewerby b Austin 144  
P J Fieldward c Titchard b Austin 2  
J B Lewis c Speak b Austin 69  
M J Roberts c Ewerby b Watkinson 9  
M C Ball c Grayson b Austin 0  
A M Smith c Chappell 4  
S J W Anderson not out 21  
Extras (b 7, nb 14) 21  
Total 500

Score at 120 overs: 484-4

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-178, 3-383, 4-390, 5-401, 6-425, 7-440, 8-480, 9-500

BOWLING: Chappell 20.1-110.2, Ewerby 21.3-79.0, Austin 31.5-110.5, Watkinson 28.6-105.1, Keedy 34.11-75.2, Speak 5-0-18.0

Second Innings

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

N J Speak b Such 29  
M J Roberts c Cooley b Cooley 11  
J P Crawley c Law b Keedy 11  
S P Titchard not out 227  
G D Lloyd not out 17  
Extras (b 5, nb 12) 17  
Total (3 wickets, 78 overs) 387

Score at 120 overs: 425-5

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-34, 3-390, 4-430, 5-414, 6-442, 7-440, 8-480, 9-500

BOWLING: Cooley 22.5-70.3, Bowler 15.4-64.0, James 22.2-53.2, Stephenson 6-1-32.0, Lloyd 40.11-127.4, Mait 22.5-55.1, Watkinson 3-0-20.0, White 5-0-34.0

Second Innings

Hampshire v Derbyshire

SOUTHAMPTON (second day of four): Hampshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 181 runs behind Derbyshire.

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

K J Barnett c Connor 7  
A S Roberts c Whitaker b Udal 131  
C J Adams lbw b Udal 129  
D M Jones lbw b James 19  
T A Twiss c White b James 0  
J F Cooley c Mait b Connor 0  
P A J DeFreitas c James b Udal 11  
H M Khan lbw b Connor 8  
M J Verrall not out 11  
D E Malcolm b Mait 16  
Extras (b 1, nb 15) 16  
Total 472

Score at 120 overs: 425-5

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-34, 3-390, 4-430, 5-414, 6-442, 7-440, 8-480, 9-500

BOWLING: Cooley 22.5-70.3, Bowler 15.4-64.0, James 22.2-53.2, Stephenson 6-1-32.0, Lloyd 40.11-127.4, Mait 22.5-55.1, Watkinson 3-0-20.0, White 5-0-34.0

Second Innings

Hampshire: First Innings

J P Stephenson c Roberts b Jones 85  
J D Lacey lbw b Malcolm 21  
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P A J DeFreitas c James b Udal 11  
H M Khan lbw b Connor 8  
M J Verrall not out 11  
D E Malcolm b Mait 16  
Extras (b 1, nb 15) 16  
Total 472

Score at 120 overs: 425-5

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-34, 3-390, 4-430, 5-414, 6-442, 7-440, 8-480, 9-500

BOWLING: Cooley 22.5-70.3, Bowler 15.4-64.0, James 22.2-53.2, Stephenson 6-1-32.0, Lloyd 40.11-127.4, Mait 22.5-55.1, Watkinson 3-0-20.0, White 5-0-34.0

Second Innings

Hampshire: First Innings

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Visit the monks of Fuggle Abbey.

SEE the Wax-works in the old shed at the back of the brewery and imagine what life could have been like if there were monks and an abbey.



## Versatile Vaughan comes up trumps

BY SIMON WILDE

MIDDLESBROUGH (second day of four): Yorkshire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 344 runs ahead of Surrey.

YORKSHIRE took such a firm grip on this game yesterday that, if they fail to win — assuming they are not further delayed by the weather — they ought to be whisked down to London to join Raymond Nlingworth in explaining themselves to the authorities next week. They are holding all the aces and Surrey, condemned to batting last on a turning pitch, know it.</







# EURO 96

## THE COMPLETE GUIDE

### GROUP A

#### ENGLAND

After all the speculation about whether any of the "Celtic Four" would be banished from the England squad, news of one expulsion did seep through to the team's Bisham Abbey headquarters yesterday: England officials have apparently banned The Sun from the team hotel lest the subject matter disturbs the players so close to the big game. Tony Adams, who may replace David Platt as captain today, took the censorship further when he revealed he was trying to ensure his colleagues did not read any newspapers or watch television. He said they had been watching videos and "doing things to relax the brain" instead. Adams and Darren Anderton were the only players who were brought out to see the press in the giant white tent that caters to the international media. Gary Neville has recovered from his thigh strain and should start against Switzerland but Les Ferdinand still has a groin problem and is unlikely to be considered.

#### SWITZERLAND

British bureaucracy is often impenetrable but the spirit of Euro 96 helped to cut through the red tape when Credit Suisse, sponsors of Switzerland, wanted to hang a good luck banner on the side of the Swiss National Tourist Office in Leicester Square. Such advertising is strictly controlled in the West End but, after countless calls and faxes, Urs Eberhard, the bank's head honcho in the UK and Ireland, finally managed to bypass all the red tape and gain permission. "It took a long time but I suppose that is typical of you English," a bank spokesman said. It cost £4,000 to employ 12 men to scale the heights and unfurl the banner, but there is still a catch. It can remain there for only three days before it must flutter gently to earth. "Maybe if we reach the final we will try to put it up again," the spokesman, having slipped into pique-nightly mode, added.

#### HOLLAND

Supper House Hotel and Country Club, set in deepest, rural Hertfordshire, near St Albans, had seen little life before the Holland squad invaded its neatly manicured grounds this week. It was no surprise that many of the guests were seen peering in bemused fashion from the overlooking balcony, wondering what on earth was this bright orange gathering before them. They had no need to worry; the unexpected invaders were perfectly formed and perfectly behaved. Holland's coach, Guus Hiddink, may have a few injury worries, the fitness of the Alex forward Patrick Kluivert in particular, leading up to his team's clash with Scotland at Villa Park on Monday, but the players gave their onlookers a thrill and also performed admirably for the assembled press. Considering the promised sums on offer, reported to be in the region of £160,000 per player, if they win the championship, they had much to look good about. Merely me, not even a hint of a broken TV.

#### SCOTLAND

Scotland are obliged to share their training complex for the European championship finals, but the company they keep is proving affable. The squad is using the leisure facilities of the NFU Mutual in Stratford. On Thursday, around 1,000 employees and children had the opportunity to collect photographs and autographs. The attention was a little less abundant yesterday, but, as he left the field, Ally McCoist was able to barter with secretaries who were leaning from a window in the office block. The congenial surroundings were offered by NFU Mutual's managing director, Andrew Young, a Scot whose underlings claim to be keen Rangers supporters. Eoin Jess, the Coventry City midfielder, was withdrawn from the latter part of the training session because of a slight thigh strain, but it is expected to clear up in the next 24 hours and he should be available for Scotland's opening match against Holland on Monday.

### GROUP B

#### SPAIN

Prepare for a culture shock when Spain make their first Euro 96 outing tomorrow. Gone are the days of Latin lassitude; fanaticism in the watchword under coach Javier Clemente. His Basque work ethic has transformed the collection of disparate elements into a cohesive whole. Reassuringly, the Spanish build-up has been far from conventional. Only two friendlies this year, none in the last month and only one week together before the big kick-off suggests either supreme confidence or total disregard by the Spanish footballing authorities. It is the latter, but Clemente has devised bizarre routines to offset the effects of a demanding domestic competition. His most loco idea is to lock the players in a sauna and then transfer them into a swimming pool filled with ice. "We have had the worst of all the build-ups, but it has been the best as well," Clemente said. Their play may be less mysterious, but at least their utterances remain as impenetrable as ever.

#### BULGARIA

Tournament play, it seems, brings out the old iron Curtain mentality in the eastern Europeans. The Bulgarians are holed up in an isolated hotel in Scarborough and security is very tight — even the team press office had difficulty gaining entry this week. They do like a good old conspiracy theory as well. Dimitar Pennev, the Bulgarian coach, finally gave a press conference this week, only to descend immediately into dark mutterings about the Spanish. He accused them of trying to undermine his side by criticising the Bulgarians based in Spain. "It won't work. They are trying to kick up a storm but we will ignore it," he said. If it all smacks of paranoia, don't be fooled. Pennev was just playing little games and the reality is that he has arrived in England full of confidence, and with good reason. It would seem "We are a better side now than we were when we reached the World Cup semi-final two years ago," he said.

#### ROMANIA

With Kevin Keegan in the ITV studio and most of his players basking in the sun, Newcastle United's Durham training base, Maiden Castle, is being tormented by Romania during June. It was on this university-owned land that Anghel Iordanescu's squad trained in bright sunshine yesterday. They have been settling into Redworth Hall, just north of Darlington, and charming members of that upmarket hotel's health club by working out alongside them in the gym. A general lack of English is no barrier to the Romanians' attraction, and intense fitness aficionados have been out buying the latest in figure-enhancing lycra leotards as they bid to catch the eye of Florin Radulescu et al. The Anghel of Bucharest will not like local paper talk about which of his charges might suit Peter Reid's Sunderland next season but surely no rumour can top that of a couple of seasons ago when Keegan was supposedly sighted in a Bingley Ball and chip shop with George Hagi.

#### FRANCE

Oh, set Cantona? To the France manager, Aimé Jacquet, that question was less a question than a statement. The week has progressed. Jacquet has received remarkably little criticism for his decision to ignore the obvious charms of the man many English supporters believe can walk the Channel that the French squad flew across yesterday. The straggle was becoming increasingly Gallic though, after Zinedine Zidane, the impostor who impudently assumed King Eric's crown, was struck down with injury. The problem is with the thigh muscle and the bullets from the team doctor, Jean-Marcel Ferré, have been drier by the hour. Thankfully for Jacquet, Zidane successfully came through a test against Armenia and the French arrived yesterday buoyant as they checked into The George Hotel in Northumberland. A 2-0 victory on Wednesday extended their unbeaten sequence to 23 matches and improved already soaring confidence. Qui a besoin de Cantona?

### GROUP C

#### GERMANY

This has been an embarrassing two days for the Germans. The last straw, the cancellation of yesterday's open training session at Macclesfield had, in the words of Wolfgang Marbach, their spokesman, had the "phone ringing off the wall" from disappointed fans. Berke Vogts was unimpressed, insisting that the Macclesfield pitch was unsuitable. "I've been at every major championship since 1966, and every training pitch was far, far better than the one we were given." The Germans will attempt to repair the public relations damage by trying to find an alternative pitch next week. "We feel we have an obligation to keep on doing public sessions, we're not trying to hide," Marbach said. There was one German success, albeit for their medical profession, yesterday. It was announced that Mario Basler, who flew home earlier in the week, had had a loose piece of bone in his foot removed yesterday, and he is expected back today and to be fit to play against Russia next week.

#### CZECH REPUBLIC

Some idiosyncratic preparation has left the Czechs looking reasonably fit to perform well in the demanding Group C. They wooed Preston Grasshoppers rugby union club sufficiently effectively for the club's groundsmen to transform a muddy rugby field into a smooth soccer pitch for the Republic's training sessions. And the Czechs completely bowled over the village of Bamber Bridge despite trouncing their United League side 9-1 on Thursday evening. Every member of the squad, apart from Koubek, took part in the friendly at Irongate, Maier, the third-choice goalkeeper, even had a go in midfield. It seems that they have an embarrassment of riches with Berger, top scorer in the qualifying stages, not sure of a place in the starting line-up against Germany tomorrow. Smisek, the Newcastle United goalkeeper, is not too hopeful of selection — if Koubek recovers from his elbow injury he will still be first choice.

#### ITALY

Italy traveled the north-west looking for a hotel prepared to accept their own chef and closed accommodation to anyone but the Italian squad. To say they are one of the more private teams of Euro 96 would be the understatement of the tournament. Yesterday Arrigo Sacchi set a few players loose on the media, of which the Italian contingent create a highly claustrophobic atmosphere. Roberto Mussi performed best under the spotlight looking very the Robert Redford. In front of cameras, Mussi was not really expected to be a first choice full back but was named for today's warm up game against Stoke City's under-18s. He is now just one step from playing at Anfield for which he has a "particular fascination" having supported Liverpool as a youngster. Zola, also named for the warm-up match, expressed a vague interest in one day joining the FA Carling Premiership. Vialli has probably started a fashion.

#### RUSSIA

Glasnost may have had its moments, but it evidently has not infiltrated the Ministry of Sport and Tourism yet. Instead, Wrightington Hall, the country club hotel headquarters of the Russian team, outside Wigan, is proving almost as impenetrable as the Kremlin in the old days. Guards patrol the corridors and visitors are discouraged. Yesterday the barriers came down briefly with an open training session at Wigan Athletic. "This will be the only chance to meet the players," their press officer warned. It had been scheduled for 5pm today, until it was pointed out that it clashed with the end of England's first game. The only question over the team is the replacements for the injured first-choice full backs. The loss of the outstanding defender Nikiforov for the first game increases the problem, and there have been suggestions that Kanchelskis could play wing back, but they are more likely to play him in his more orthodox role.

### GROUP D

#### DENMARK

The Danes have an uncanny knack of putting their differences behind them. There have been all sorts of rows and boycotts by the players but, right now, they probably have the best morale in the world. The reward, for the neutral, is the opportunity to watch the Laudrup brothers play together in a significant tournament for the first time. Michael's beef has been with the team's negative style of play but he has, temporarily at least, converted to the notion that Denmark do not have enough talent to play other than on the break. There are no injury worries and manager Richard Møller Nielsen is expected to field the same side that beat Ghana 1-0 in Copenhagen last weekend despite the assertion of Rangers' Brian Laudrup that "we didn't play particularly well ... but it suits us to play against skilful players." So, it surely must be Denmark and Turkey to qualify from this group, then.

#### PORTUGAL

Portugal are taking no chances with "mad cow" disease. The Portuguese cattle industry is sending its own beef and the squad have brought their own chef, dairy products and, having heard of Yorkshire Water's reputation, their own water with them. Food apart, the Portuguese are happy enough in South Yorkshire. They were greeted on Wednesday by a civic reception in Sheffield, and trained at Sheffield Wednesday's training pitch the next morning. To make them feel really at home, the Companhia Paulo Ribeiro, Portugal's leading modern dance group, were at the Crucible last night. "All the people are very friendly, the facilities are very good, the training pitch is excellent," Vítor Baía, the captain, said after their first session. His view of Paulo Ribeiro was not great. David Platt, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, was equally complimentary in reverse, saying that he expected Portugal to win Group D.

#### TURKEY

Was it pure coincidence that a promotional stunt, involving a large model of a turkey, was taking place outside the team hotel in Bolton, near Grantham, when the Turkish squad arrived for business on Tuesday? No matter, they are forgiving souls and it has not affected their plans for a get-together and barbecue tonight. Though traditional Christmas fare is unlikely to be on the menu, Faith Terim and his squad will eat heartily and contemplate their debut in the European championship finale. "We have waited more than 70 years for this chance and it is important that we make an impression," he said. Tugay Keremoglu, the Galatasaray midfielder, has a foot injury but is Terim's only worry ahead of the game against Croatia on Tuesday. "It is the first time we have played them since Yugoslavia broke up and they will be playing with their hearts," he said, "but we have not come here to think about Croatia."

#### CROATIA

Drazen Ladic, the Croatia goalkeeper, has been undergoing plenty of coaching practice as Miroslav Blazevic's squad have been based in Ireland this week. Ladic, 33, is a keen angler and has been taking advantage of the pleasurable delights of Co Monaghan. At first, Ladic claimed to have caught a trout in a local lake. "He was trying to get his lunch but we reckon he bought it down the road," a Croatian insider said. Then, a day later, he turned on the style for a television crew that just happened to be passing by, hauling in a brace of pike of the milneuse variety. Much bigger try now lie ahead for Ladic and company, with Croatia due to arrive in England today, to set up shop at their Group D headquarters at Oakham, near Rutland, Leicestershire. What price Turkey are not so much stuffed but rooted right in at Nottingham Forest's City Ground on Tuesday evening?

## MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

### GROUP A

England v Switzerland (Wembley, 3.0)  
Mon June 10  
Holland v Scotland (Villa Park, 4.30)  
Thurs June 13  
Switzerland v Holland (Villa Park, 7.30)  
Sat June 15  
England v Scotland (Wembley, 3.0)  
Tues June 18  
Scotland v Switzerland (Villa Park, 7.30)  
Tues June 18  
England v Holland (Wembley, 7.30)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### GROUP B

Spain v Bulgaria (Elland Road, 2.30)  
Mon June 10  
Romania v France (St James' Park, 7.30)  
Thurs June 13  
Bulgaria v Romania (St James' Park, 4.30)  
Sat June 15  
France v Spain (Elland Road, 6.0)  
Tues June 18  
France v Bulgaria (St James' Park, 4.30)  
Tues June 18  
Romania v Spain (Elland Road, 4.30)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Romania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### GROUP C

Germany v Czech Republic (Old Trafford, 5.0)  
Tues June 11  
Italy v Russia (Anfield, 4.30)  
Fri June 14  
Czech Republic v Italy (Anfield, 7.30)  
Sun June 16  
Russia v Germany (Old Trafford, 3.0)  
Wed June 19  
Italy v Germany (Old Trafford, 7.30)  
Wed June 19  
Russia v Czech Republic (Anfield, 7.30)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Czech Rep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### GROUP D

Denmark v Portugal (Hillsborough, 7.30)  
Tues June 11  
Turkey v Croatia (City Ground, 7.30)  
Sun June 16  
Portugal v Turkey (City Ground, 4.30)  
Sun June 16  
Croatia v Denmark (Hillsborough, 6.0)  
Wed June 19  
Croatia v Portugal (City Ground, 4.30)  
Wed June 19  
Turkey v Denmark (Hillsborough, 4.30)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### QUARTER-FINALS

Sat June 22 Winners Group B v Runners-up Group A (Anfield, 6.30)  
Sun June 23 Winners Group C v Runners-up Group D (Old Trafford, 3.0)  
Sat June 22 Runners-up Group B v Winners Group A (Wembley, 3.0)  
Sun June 23 Runners-up Group C v Winners Group D (Villa Park, 6.30)

### SEMI-FINALS

Wed June 26 Villa Park winners v Anfield winners (Old Trafford, 4.0)  
Wed June 26 Wembley winners v Old Trafford winners (Wembley, 7.30)

### FINAL

Sat June 30 Wembley, 7.0

PREVIOUS WINNERS  
1960 Sweden  
1964 Spain  
1968 Italy  
1972 West Germany  
1976 Czechoslovakia  
1980 West Germany  
1984 France  
1988 Holland  
1992 Denmark

RUNNERS-UP  
1968 USSR  
1968 Yugoslavia  
1972 USSR  
1976 West Germany  
1980 Belgium  
1984 Spain  
1988 USSR  
1992 Germany

LATEST BETTING  
4-1: Germany  
2-1: Italy  
11-2: Portugal  
6-1: France  
2-1: England  
8-1: Spain  
10-1: Portugal  
12-1: Croatia

LATEST BETTING  
16-1: Russia  
25-1: Bulgaria  
25-1: Romania  
25-1: Denmark  
50-1: Switzerland  
66-1: Czech Republic  
80-1: Scotland  
100-1: Turkey

Words: Oliver Holt, Kevin McCarr, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Alyson Rudd, David Maddock, Louise Taylor



# Still daft as a brush, but needed more than ever



Gascoigne: in many ways he is still a young kid

When Paul Gascoigne played for me in the 1990 World Cup in Italy, he was the best young player in the tournament. Things have turned a bit sour for him since then. He had the ligament injury in the FA Cup Final, the broken kneecap and the broken leg, but now he is back to something close to his best and he has got a new challenge: for his own sake and for England's, he has to become the most responsible player in the European championship.

I heard all the fuss about his behaviour on the flight home from Hong Kong. Like everything else, whatever happened on the plane will have been exaggerated by the tabloids. If it was Paul, then he deserves to be reprimanded, but suggestions that he should be kept out of the squad were unwarrantable. It does matter that he is one of our better players, it does matter that he is influential. We need him.

I made him wait before I gave him his chance at international level a couple of months before Italia 90. I must have watched him about 20 times before I picked him and I did not play him until I thought he was

ready. When I first saw him, he was doing things like trying to nutmeg people outside his own box. If you do that at international level and lose the ball, you are going to be a goal down before you have time to blink.

I used to talk to him about discipline and, when I thought I could trust him, I put him in against Czechoslovakia at Wembley and he had a marvellous game. I thought to myself while I was watching him that night that this was a great talent.

He was 23 then. He was young and coltish and a bit silly and I just thought that, with the passage of time, he would calm down a bit and have more sense, but now I don't think that is ever going to happen. He is always going to be someone who catches the public eye, for the right reasons or the wrong ones. He forgets who he is. In many ways, he is still a young kid.

Chris Waddle did a great job with him in that 1990 England squad. He talked George to him and slowed him down, and Peter Beardsley did the same, but he still managed to do the kind of things that made me call him daft as a brush. That was not a

**Bobby Robson looks at the potential impact of his star from 1990 in this first of a series of exclusive articles to appear in The Times during Euro 96**



vicious remark: it was intended as a term of affection, but it was the way he was.

The afternoon before the quarter-final with Cameroon, for example, he played a game of tennis when we wanted him to be resting. He was first up and last to bed. He never missed anything. Wherever I was, he seemed to be there, too. I saw more of him than anyone else because of that and we got on very well.

I was always a bit concerned about him back then. He was dynamite, TNT. I put up with his off-the-pitch behaviour because he

was always making people laugh and raising spirits. My worry was that he would explode on the field and the prime example of that came with that booking against Germany which would have put him out of the World Cup final if we had got there. It was so unnecessary, too.

He is always going to have rushes of blood to the head during the course of a match. He never learns: that is the problem; but he needs to realise that this could be his last tournament at this level and, if he has any sense at all, he will not let anything get in the way of him taking his chance. He will need to

show the kind of sheer application that he has never shown before, but he must do it.

He is still the key for England. He can give the pass that unlocks the door. He can see the pass that nobody else sees. All his injuries have pruned his development, but he has still got his dribble, he has still got his strength on the ball. If he can stay out of trouble, he, and players like him, will be a wonderful asset in a tournament where defenders should reign supreme.

I rate England's chances of doing well in Euro 96. It is hard to judge them properly because they have not had any truly competitive matches for the past 2½ years. Whatever you say to players, they know it is only a friendly and they do not really dig it out for you, but now that the tournament is here and points are at stake and they have to fight and scramble, I think their performance level will rise by 10 per cent, and that could give them an edge.

McManaman and Anderton are fine touch players and Shearer cannot possibly go on not scoring. It will not be all new to Fowler

anymore, either, if he gets a chance and, even though I thought Beardsley was a gem, Terry has chosen Barmby instead. If they get the chances, any of those lads will knock them in.

The quality of the other teams is so high that it is difficult to pick out a favourite, but I saw Germany beat Portugal 2-1 in Porto in March and they looked very accomplished. They had a bit of class and the teamwork was of a very high standard. They did not make many errors and they will be very difficult to beat.

Holland must be among the favourites, too. I know some of their players from my time with PSV Eindhoven and I like the Dutch way of playing. They keep possession, but they do not overpass. They will not give it away, but they are always looking to be progressive and penetrative with it. If he is fit, Patrick Kluivert, their centre forward, should be the best young player in the tournament.

That brings us back to Paul. If he keeps it sensible, he could put Kluivert and the rest of them in the shade.

## Adams ready to lead England on day of reckoning

By Oliver Holt

TERRY VENABLES, the England coach, had posed with a symbol of the Three Lions for the ranks of jostling photographers and Paul Gascoigne had perfected a new funny walk for the benefit of his teammates when Tony Adams, for so long the epitome of English footballing determination, sat down at a table in front of a horde of journalists. "Have we got a big game coming up then?" he asked, in mock surprise.

A big game, indeed. A game against Switzerland at Wembley today that will mark the beginning of England's attempt to erase, as their official song says, "30 years of hurt" by winning the European championship and adding another trophy to the World Cup won by Bobby Moore, Bobby Charlton and the rest in 1966. For Adams, it seems, it may be bigger than most.

Although he refused to comment yesterday, sources close to Venable said that he had decided to play Gareth Southgate alongside Adams in a flat back four and persevere with Steve McNamaman on the left side of midfield. That would mean no place for David Platt, the designated captain, leaving the armband to pass to his Arsenal team-mate.

Venable will not name his team until an hour before the kick-off today. He emphasised yesterday that he wants to see to gain any edge he can over

the opposition, and one theory was that the rumours about Platt were merely a smoke-screen to try to throw Switzerland off the scent.

If Adams, who made a rousing call to arms to his team-mates yesterday, is handed the role, though, there can be little doubting his



**EURO 96**

suitability, even though he has only just regained full fitness after a long spell out with injury.

"I do not take part in any tournament or play in any game that I do not think I can win," Adams said. "I think we have got the talent to do it. We need the red of the green, but there is tremendous ability in this squad, which we have not been given enough credit for. It is about time for us to stand up and say 'We are a good side' and start delivering."

"I am very patriotic and I see some of the Irish and Dutch lads at Arsenal who are so proud to play for their

country and so proud of their players and I do not get the impression that we give ourselves the same kind of approval. In the dressing-room, whatever needs to be done, I do. I motivate the ones who need to be motivated, calm down the ones who need to be calmed down."

Adams said that he had been trying to pick out good omen to encourage the rest of the team. When Arsenal were going for the league championship in 1993, he had geed up his colleagues by reminding them that the club had won the title in 1953 and 1971 and was due another in the 18-year cycle. Quite what success he could drag out of 1996 to prove that English success comes in 30-year bounces, he would not say.

Venable took a more stoical view of the weeks ahead, trying to calm the fervour that he must feel building throughout the country. "We can't think about winning the tournament," he said. "I know it is a cliché, but we have to take a game at a time. Beating Switzerland tomorrow is as much as we can hope for. It will be nice to win and to entertain in a fashion that everyone wants."

"It will be a great moment walking out at Wembley. It will be one of the goosebump ones where you can feel the excitement. Am I nervous? No. Not yet."



The Czech Republic players, Sznicer, left, Bejbl, Berger and Novotny, get back to basics and move a goal before training in Preston yesterday

## Craftsman clocks on for Wembley shift

By Row Hughes  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BEFORE a ball is kicked in Euro 96, we imagine players on the rack of fear, their livelihoods entirely dependent on performance, their thoughts wandering no further than a pack of playing cards from 4-4-2s and other systems. Not so: waiting to take on England is Sebastian Jeanerret, a player apart in that he has a full-time living outside the game; and waiting to oppose Scotland at Villa Park on Monday is Johan de Kock, a civil engineer who plays part-time.

Jeanerret, who is hoping to be called up for his second cap for Switzerland today as a replacement for the suspended Marc Hottiger — is a watch-

maker. He is 22, came out of full-time study just six months ago, and with a diploma in the fine technical art of clock mechanism, he runs his own business repairing and restoring some of the finest antique clocks in the home of the clock. His grandfather was a clock-maker.

Unsurprisingly, Jeanerret finds it extraordinary that he could play at Wembley this afternoon. Yet yesterday there was no detectable nervousness in him. Looking quite relaxed, he observed: "This is a sport; I like to be free to choose my life."

His main role in three seasons for Xamax Neuchâtel has been as a stopper, but if he plays on the right of midfield, his instincts will carry him forward every bit as much as we have

come to expect from Hottiger. Also in the team, Kubilay Turkylmaz, born Swiss of Turkish parents, was the player whose two goals for Galatasaray, of Turkey, effectively removed Manchester United from the European Champions' League three years ago. Kubilay subsequently gave up the almost obscene riches of the Istanbul club to return to Switzerland with Grasshopper. The reason? Again, life outside football. "I have two daughters who are reaching school age," he said. "It is important to put education first."

So Kubilay, the scorer of three goals in five qualifying matches, another man from the continent for whom the obsession with professional football, the gamble of seeing everything of life

through the training ground and the dressing room, has shown the deeper side of professionalism.

It will not be apparent when he seeks to further his name against Tony Adams and Co. Nor should Scotland presume that de Kock, because he has reached 31 years without impressing himself on our knowledge, will be a soft centre of Holland's defence. De Kock replaces the captain, Danny Blind, who is suspended, and he never expected to be judged as a like replacement. The 25 per cent of his working life that is put into football, however, may be more than it seems ... after all the "full-time" English and Scottish professionals usually start their working day at 10.30am and are gone shortly after noon.

## McCoist keen to make his mark

By Kevin McCarron

ALLY MCCOIST was asked yesterday to add his signature to one of the fair plaques that will be completed by each of the 16 nations in the European championship finals. McCoist, the Rangers forward, perhaps reading the text, paused for a moment and the hesitation was long enough for someone to yell at him: "Just put down your X."

At 33, McCoist is eager to make some sort of mark in the next few weeks. For all his prolific ways at club level, he is yet to score in the finals of a significant international tournament. Asked about his desire to correct the oversight, McCoist declared that the needs of the team were greater than those of the individual and that victory itself mattered more than the identity of the man who secured it.

McCoist, however, is too mischievous to tolerate even his own platitudes and he could not continue with the humbly for long. "I'm sure you've heard all this rubbish before," he said suddenly. Gary McAllister, the Scotland captain, was also having difficulty with the notion that his team-mate can really have

become selfless. "Do you think he's going to cut the ball back?" he asked.

McCoist counts himself fortunate merely to have the opportunity to decide whether he will be altruistic or just his old, greedy self. On May 18, he missed the Tennesse Scottish Cup final after picking up a calf injury in the pre-match warm-up.

"That was as big a blow as I've had in my whole career," McCoist said, "and it left me with a nagging doubt about playing in the European championship."

"Fortunately, I had a little time and not playing in the first match of our American tour, against the United States, gave me three more days before I had to make my comeback in the Colombia game and I was able to last 70 minutes there. I know I was close to missing this tournament."

While McCoist is bound to feature at some stage in Scotland's three group matches, he may not be in the starting line-up against Holland at Villa Park on Monday. There is, however, a great need to end his country's tradition of sterility on these occasions.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, has, in various capacities, been part of the coaching staff at three tournaments — the World Cups of 1986 and 1990 as well as the 1992 European championship — and, on each occasion, Scotland have lost the opening match 1-0. "The first game," Brown said, "is critical. It would be an uphill struggle to qualify if we were beaten." He knows, too, that Holland are hardly the most suitable opponents for a country attempting to rid itself of such a jinx.

## Klinsmann starts as spectator

By Peter Ball

GERMANY go into their first game, against the Czech Republic at Old Trafford tomorrow, without Jürgen Klinsmann, but with pressure from home and abroad that is more than equal to that on England.

"Our aim is to qualify from the group, and then see how we do," Bert Vogts, their coach, said after training at the team's hotel yesterday morning, but Germany expects more from the favourites than that.

In theory, Germany have the best possible start against the Czechs, who are widely regarded as the outsiders in group C, but the first match in a four-team group is often a cagey one, with both teams afraid of losing, and the Czechs are likely to provide stubborn, well-organised, if not particularly inspired opposition, their lack of an outstanding striker telling against them.

Klinsmann is not the only German missing the march through suspension. "So is Steffen Freund, and he is an important part of our team, too," Vogts said. Since his difficulties in the World Cup, Vogts has been eager to insist on the collective rather than individual. "I know we can be very, very strong as long as the star is the team," he said yesterday. "My star is not Klinsmann, or Hässler, or Basler or Bobic; my star is the team."

The loss of Basler and Freund from midfield, the area of greatest strength for the Czechs, is potentially more damaging than Klinsmann's absence, but, with Möller and Hässler, Germany are not short of creative options.

## Denmark rely on Laudrup

By Alison Rudd

DENMARK begin the defence of their title at Hillsborough tomorrow against a side well equipped to show whether or not Richard Moeller Nielsen, the Denmark coach, has adopted the correct tactical approach.

Portugal have faith in young talent and play in an attacking, free-flowing style. Denmark, who have in Schmeichel the best goalkeeper in the competition, will aim to combine stern defending with swift counter-attacks, built around the talents of the Laudrup brothers.

Michael Laudrup, the Real Madrid midfielder player, who missed the 1992 tournament because he would have preferred another coach, is not looking beyond the quarter-final.

"We are enjoying just being here," he said. "We were in a very strong qualifying group, but we made it. Now we are in a group where I think anything can happen. Croatia, Turkey and Portugal are three strong, technically very good teams, but they still have to show what they can do in the final rounds."

Middlesbrough supporters will be particularly interested in the form of Mikkel Beck, of Denmark, who wants to come to England and play under Bryan Robson, if he can settle a contract dispute with Borussia Köln, his German second-division club.

Portugal, whose best effort in the championship was in 1984, when they reached the semi-finals, will be hoping that Rui Costa and Paulo Sousa can be more consistently effective than they were for Fiorentina and Juventus during the Italian season.

## Spotlight beckons Spaniards

By David Maddock

WITH interest in the European championship so far concentrated on England's unconventional preparations and the intimidating presence of Germany and Italy, group B, stuck out as it is in Newcastle and Leeds, has received scant attention.

All that will change come tomorrow, when Spain meet Bulgaria in the opening fixture. The insular British may have to concede that the group, completed by France and Romania, is possibly the toughest of all. Given its quiet start, it could be called the group of whispering death.

France are rightly regarded among the favourites — their unbeaten sequence stretches to 23 matches — but Spain are surely not far behind them. They have silently become a world force, thanks to Javier Clemente, their coach. The man from the Basque region of Spain has instilled a discipline and work ethic in his national team and his recent record — unbeaten in qualifying for Euro 96, conceding just four goals — is testimony to his powers.

A worry for Spain is their lack of a consistent goalscorer to lead the line, but Clemente's bigger worry is the ludicrously short amount of time he has had to prepare — just one week, because of the never-ending soap opera of the league season.

Bulgaria have been together for the past two months and present a formidable challenge. Dimitar Penev, their coach, believes that the time has come for his side. "We are a better team than two seasons ago, when we could have won the World Cup," he said.

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10/1 ENGLAND 3-0 20/1 SWITZ'D 2-1

Other scores on request.

**FIRST GOALSCORER**  
9/2 SHEARER (E) 16/1 SFORZA (S)  
8/1 SHERINGHAM (E) 20/1 WICKY (S)  
10/1 CHAPUISAT (S) 25/1 VOGEL (S)  
10/1 GASCOIGNE (E) 28/1 ADAMS (E)

Other players on request.

**FIRST HALF MATCHES**  
Sat. 8/13 ENGLAND 2/1 SWITZ'D 5/1  
Sun. 8/15 SPAIN 15/8 BULGARIA 13/5  
Sun. 8/15 GERMANY 5/4 CZECH REP. 5/1  
Sun. 8/15 PORTUGAL 15/8 DENMARK 2/1  
Mon. 8/19 HOLLAND 5/2 SCOTLAND 6/1  
Mon. 8/19 FRANCE 2/1 ROMANIA 3/1  
Tue. 11/10 ITALY 15/8 RUSSIA 12/5  
Tue. 8/15 CROATIA 9/4 TURKEY 5/1

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**National Breakdown**



SATURDAY JUNE 8 1996

Venables expected to leave out Platt for opening match against Switzerland

## Football needs safe European home

IT IS a time to accentuate the positive. At three o'clock this afternoon the most important sporting event England has staged for 30 years is launched when the national team plays its first serious game for 30 months, against Switzerland. The country must bond together to ensure Euro 96 runs smoothly.

Success need not be tied to the remote prospect of England repeating their triumph in the 1966 World Cup. They may not be as good as that. Germany and Italy, and even Croatia, France and Spain, may be so much better. And in reality, Euro 96 represents a greater challenge to the country, to the civil order and the welcoming mood of the people, than it depends on 22 players.

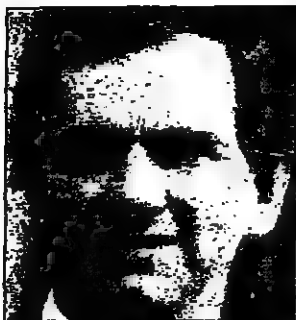
"Coming home" and "We are in this together" are the slogans. For three weeks, the motherland of the world's most popular game will undergo something like a rebirth. There is pain, expectancy, fear. The players, appearing from behind the white security screens of their training ground and, one trusts, thoroughly dried out after their tour of the Far East, have a responsibility. Paul Gascoigne, if only he can use his ability, can indulge all his unusual traits and be a hero. Alan Shearer, so spacious a goalscorer in the league, must break his 1,065-minute drought for the national team and show those who believe the tighter marking of continental teams, the intelligence of sweepers, blunts his head-on, aggressive approach.

"Don't tell anybody how good you are," Arnold Palmer's father used to tell the young golfer. "Show 'em!"

Show us all, indeed. One can only guess about the make-up of the teams at Wembley this afternoon. Terry Venables exercises his right to play the managerial game of "you first", and Arthur Jorge reciprocates in kind. The two of them will hand in their team-sheets together, each hoping to have outfoxed the other.

The Wembley turf, once the pageant of a cast of 1,000,

ROB HUGHES

Football  
Correspondent

Including medieval knights in armour, has cleared, will probably prove as inert as the FA Cup finalists. Manchester United and Liverpool, said it was last month. You cannot water a pitch when a pageant is so important, and players already nervous and cautious in not wanting to lose the inaugural match will suffer on it. That is the excuse over and done with; now for some optimism.

Venables has called 54 players to training in his two years in charge; 47 of them made it into an England shirt, 27 for the first time. At the end, he relies on a squad containing seven players with Tottenham Hotspur connections. This smacks of a coach restlessly trying to find performers to fit the system he believes will carry the old country towards the new, continental approach. That he should go back to his roots, to a Tottenham team that won so little, is unnerving; but block selection is the vogue. The Dutch, for example, have 14 of their 22 with Ajax connections.

Through the comparative veil of silence, Venables has spoken about his favourite son. "He was sensational when he was at Tottenham, and he might now be as good again," the coach said. "In fact, because he's learning to release the ball quicker, to give himself time to go on his runs, he might be better." The subject, inevitably, is Gas-



Adams, who is likely to captain England against Switzerland at Wembley today, makes his point in lion-hearted fashion yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

coigne. As a rider, Venables adds that it is not his duty to control the enthusiasm or the nature of England's most gifted creator... the inference is that players are born, not made.

David Platt, the England captain, might be the obverse to that. Unquestionably a man whose achievements have been constructed through good habits and application, he scores from midfield even when his part in build-ups might be questioned. Precious goals, when England are ca-

pable of precious few. If the grapevine is right, Platt is out of the starting line-up. One suspects that Venables thinks Switzerland will attack with three players, Marco Grassi, Stephane Chapuisat and Kubilay Turkulmaz, and therefore, the "new England" of only three in defence, must be shelved for an afternoon.

The Swiss, damaged by the broken toe Christophe Ohrel, the midfielder player, suffered on Monday, and weakened by suspensions to the right back, Marc Hottiger, and the teen-

age midfielder, Raphael Wicky, are considering at least one part-time professional with only one taste of interna-

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Bobby Robson ..... 47  
1966 recalled ..... Magazine

tional football, Sebastian Jeanneret, but that represents only one of the "host" advantages England enjoy.

Not having had to qualify, England have no suspended

players, unlike Switzerland, Holland, who start the tournament without their captain, Danny Blind, and Germany, who begin without Jürgen Klinsmann.

Playing on home territory and denying, because of a "misunderstanding", Switzerland the right to train on the Wembley field, are two more. But the principal perk of the host is to start the tournament: should England also finish it, they will have 23 days in which to play six matches. Germany have 22, Italy, Rus-

sia and Croatia only 20. The symbol of Euro 96 could be Patrick Kluivert, of Holland and Ajax, the rising star of the pop culture that football is now becoming. He will receive a bonus of £170,000 if Holland win the tournament. The £670 million that BSKyB has agreed to pay for four more years of FA Carling Premiership football means that England's wealthy clubs could pay the asking price for Kluivert, or whoever takes the eye in the next three weeks.

What cannot be bought is

peace. "Nothing has shaken my belief that Euro 96 will be a festival not only of football but also of the English way of life." Thus said Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, on the morning after the riot in Dublin 15 months ago. The game's future here depends on him being proved right.

ENGLAND (probable): 4-4-3: D. Platt (Arsenal), G. Neville (Manchester United), A. Farnham (Aston Villa), S. Pearce (Nottingham Forest), D. Anderson (Tottenham Hotspur), P. Line (Tottenham Hotspur), P. Gascoigne (Tottenham Hotspur), S. Macfarlane (Tottenham Hotspur), E. Shearer (Blackburn Rovers).  
Referee: V. Diaz (Spain).

Cecil holds powerful  
Derby hand

HENRY CECIL won the Oaks with Lady Carla yesterday and spoke confidently of completing a rare Epsom classic double by landing the Vodafone Derby this afternoon (Richard Evans writes).

Cecil, the ten-time champion trainer, is double-handed for the world's most famous Flat race and said: "We are very pleased with Dushyantor and Storm Trooper and are going to have a really good go. They have come through everything right and come to a peak like Lady Carla. It is a question now of whether they are good enough."

Cecil was the last trainer to complete the Oaks-Derby double, with Oh So Sharp and Slip Anchor in 1985. Dushyantor will be ridden by Pat Eddery and is 4-1 favourite while Storm Trooper, the mount of Mick Kinane, has been well backed during the past 24 hours to 6-1. While Cecil attempts to send out his fourth Derby winner, Alex Greaves will become the first woman to ride in the 216 years of the Derby. Greaves, 28, rides Portuguese Lil, the 500-1 outsider.

Bred to win, page 42  
Alex Greaves, page 42  
Colours guide, page 43

## Staunch Hussain keeps England in control

BY ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EDGBASTON (second day of five): India, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 94 runs behind England

ENGLAND have spent as long in the search for an effective No 3 as Nasser Hussain has spent seeking the fulfilment of a Test career. The two ambitions happily coincided yesterday, and the benefits, for both parties, of Hussain's maiden century may be more than short-term.

The immediate prognosis is that England ought to win the first Cornhill Test, although there were times yesterday when their control was dan-



Hussain: century on recall

gerously eroded. Beyond that, England can at last link in the name of a man who has frustrated nobody more than himself by his protracted battle to conquer temperament with talent.

It is six years since Hussain made his precocious entrance to Test cricket, three years since the last of his seven games. The second coming of which he sometimes despaired has now been achieved in style and, what is more, in the position where a steady stream of candidates have tried and failed to hold down.

The last century made by an England No 3 came from Mike Gatting, 14 Tests ago. Eight different batsmen have been asked to bat there within

those games. Nobody else will have the chance for a while.

Hussain played magnificently for more than five hours, as he needed to do. India, stung by the carelessness of their batting, responded so gingerly with the ball that, for long periods, the game hung in the balance. At one stage, England had plunged to 215 for eight, only one run ahead.

The most untrustworthy pitches can often produce the most gripping cricket and this was a case in point. Warwickshire are sensitive on the issue, but the fact remains that this has been a poor surface. That the outcome has been two intriguing days, however, is unarguable.

England's overnight position was soon exposed as illusory. On a humid morning, shortened by a 20-minute shower, they lost three wickets and might easily have lost five or six. Javagal Srinath bowled with skill, venom and no luck whatsoever.

Prasad and Mhambrey, his underrated partners in seam, assisted ably and England lived on their nerve-ends.

Knight was out to the second ball of the day, which kept low. Two of the next three flew past Hussain's nose. He was disconcerted neither by this nor by the alarms that he was to experience up to lunch, by when he had batted two hours for 19. He was proclaiming his maturity, advertising his pa-

tience and focus. The exotic shots — the late cuts, cover drives and leg glances — would come later.

Atherton, having twice edged Prasad just short of the slip cordon, eventually drove at Mhambrey and was caught, jugglingly, at second slip. Thorpe came out blazing, survived a couple of top-edged pulls and was then bowled, off bat and pad, by Srinath.

Hick was watched by his parents, over from Zimbabwe, where they have compiled 23 scrapbooks of his career. This will not be an innings that they will wish to highlight, for its watchful beginnings were squandered by a pull to long leg, where two men had been set for such a stroke.

Now, however, came England's jauntiest batting. Ronnie Irani has taken to international cricket with engaging gusto and he simply did what comes naturally, hitting the ball cleanly from his imposing height. Of the 46 added in ten overs with Hussain, Irani made 34 from 34 balls before falling to a lifter from Srinath, kicking the ground in self-disgust and offering a disarming grin of apology to umpire Hair.

This was the first of four wickets to tumble for 20 runs. The other three fell in eight balls from Prasad, who yorked Russell and found Lewis and Cork flitting outside off stump. Hussain was still in the sixties, but, as the bowlers tired, the softer ball behaved more placidly and, with the tail playing sensibly, he virtually doubled his score.

When Patel was leg-before to Kumble, an out-of-sorts bowler, Hussain had reached 93, but Mullally, whose career average is seven, accompanied him in a frisky stand of 49. India, so close to turning this game on its head, looked deflated and it was as well for them that the weather closed in with 15 overs unbowed.

Michael Henderson, page 44  
Photograph, page 44  
Double century, page 44

## SCOREBOARD FROM EDGBASTON

INDIA: First Innings 214 (J Srinath 52; D G Cork 4 for 61)	C G Lewis c Rathore b Prasad ..... 0 (11m, 1 ball)
ENGLAND: First Innings	D G Cork c Jadhav b Prasad ..... 4 (30m, 9 balls)
N V Knight c Mongia b Srinath ..... 27 (79m, 48 balls, 4 fours)	M M Patel bow to Kumble ..... 18 (52m, 35 balls, 2 fours)
*M A Atherton c Rathore b Mhambrey ..... 33 (120m, 98 balls, 5 fours)	A D Mullally not out ..... 14 (47m, 25 balls, 3 fours)
N Hussain c sub (R Dravid) ..... 128 (303m, 227 balls, 1 six, 18 fours)	Extras (b 16, lb 3, nb 7) ..... 26 Total (80.2 overs, 389m) ..... 313
G P Thorpe b Srinath ..... 21 (45m, 30 balls, 1 six, 2 fours)	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-60 (Atherton 31), 2-72 (Hussain 3), 3-109 (Hussain 15), 4-149 (Hussain 43), 5-195 (Hussain 51), 6-205 (Hussain 58), 7-205 (Hussain 58), 8-215 (Hussain 64), 9-264 (Hussain 93)
G A Hick c Mhambrey b Prasad ..... 8 (41m, 29 balls, 2 fours)	BOWLING: Srinath 28.2-5-103-4 (pb 6; 2 overs, 12 balls, 4-0-17-0, 13-3-30-2, 4-0-22-1, 3-1-13-0, 3-0-21-0, 1-2-0-0)
R C Irani c Mongia b Srinath ..... 34 (61m, 34 balls, 7 fours)	INDIA: Second Innings
JR C Russell b Prasad ..... 0 (23m, 14 balls)	V Rathore not out ..... 5 (10m, 8 balls, 1 four)
	A D Jadhav not out ..... 0 (10m, 6 balls, 1 four)
	Extras ..... 0 Total (no wkt, 2.2 overs, 10m) ..... 5

1-0-1: Prasad 28.2-5-103-4 (11 balls; 7-2-7-0, 4-3-1-0, 6-2-22-1, 3-2-25-3, 3-0-18-0; Kumble 24-4-77-1 (12 balls; 4-0-21-0, 14-4-41-0, 6-0-15-1); Mhambrey 10-0-49-1 (pb 3; 8 balls; 2-0-8-0, 7-0-31-1, 1-0-8-0)

SCORING NOTES: Second day: Lunch: 114-3 (40 overs, 181m; Hussain 19, Hick 0). Tea: 229-8 (68 overs, 301m; Hussain 76, Patel 2). Second new ball taken at 5.14pm: England 302 for 9 (87 overs)

S V Manjrekar, S R Tendulkar, \*M Jaisankar, IN R Mongia, S B Joshi, A Kurkure, J Srinath, P L Mhambrey and B K V Prasad to bat.

BOWLING: Lewis 1.2-0-5-0 (1 ball; Cork 1-1-0-0)

Umpires: D B Hair (Australia) and D R Shepherd.

Match referee: C W Smith (West Indies).

TESTS TO COME

Second (Lord's): June 20 to 24. Third (Trent Bridge): July 3 to 9.

CI Compiled by Bill Friswell

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# Zhirinovsky's wild words cast spell over the workers

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN OREKHOVO-ZUYEVO

DRESSED in a canary-yellow blazer and shielded from the summer sun by an incongruous EU umbrella, Vladimir Zhirinovsky strutted up to the microphone before launching into his familiar tirade.

The West was colonising the great Russian nation. A corrupt and incompetent Government needed to be ousted from power. Russia cried out for a firm hand to restore order and rebuild its greatness. The time for Zhirinovsky had come.

In a 45-minute outburst the ultra-nationalist firebrand managed to keep the attention of a crowd of 1,000 in this industrial town east of Moscow, by shocking and amusing his audience in a performance that Mussolini would have envied.

"I will be voting for him," said Andrei, 36, a factory worker, who added that Russia needed a new leader to rebuild the country without taking it back on the road to communism. "I like the way



he speaks and I believe in what he says."

Aside from a brief campaign pledge to house, employ and protect Russia, Mr Zhirinovsky, 50, spent most of his address in a character assassination of his rivals. President Yeltsin led a weak, lazy and corrupt administration which had turned Russia into a colony of America. The only distinction of Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, was his time as a cook in the army. Grigori Yavlinsky, the liberal candidate, was a CIA agent.

"There is only one week left to choose," said the ultra-nationalist, jabbing his finger at the crowd. "Don't go to your dachas. Think about the country's future and what you can do to save it. Think about your children."

His anti-Establishment, anti-Western and anti-Semitic outbursts are well received by the country's sizable population of have-nots, many of whom are ready to overlook his Jewish parentage and links to the Kremlin.

"Zhirinovsky knows he cannot win the election, but he has run a good campaign and will probably emerge with a healthy showing," said Sergei Markov, a political analyst at the Carnegie Centre in Moscow. "He could use that support to bargain with."

□ Bomb blast: Valeri Shanrev, candidate for Deputy Mayor of Moscow, was wounded by a bomb that exploded outside his apartment block.



Karl Hass, 84, a former SS major, is taken to a military hospital in Rome after jumping from the first floor of his hotel yesterday when he was due to testify in a war crimes trial

## Rome atrocity trial's SS witness injured in hotel escape bid

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE war crimes trial of the former SS captain, Erich Priebke, took a dramatic turn yesterday when a fellow SS member who was about to give vital evidence for the prosecution tried to escape from his guarded hotel by jumping 15ft from the first floor, breaking his pelvis and damaging vertebrae.

There was speculation that members of a shadowy network of former SS officers had threatened Karl Hass, 84, who agreed only reluctantly to appear in court. "I fear there has been some external interference," said Antonio Intelisano, the military prosecutor, who persuaded Herr Hass, a former SS major, to come to Rome from Switzerland to give evidence and guaranteed his safety.

Signor Intelisano said Herr Hass had told police in the military hospital where he is now under redoubled guard that he had become "afraid to testify". The prosecutor, who met Herr Hass on Thursday night, said he had "reason to believe" that Herr

Hass had later received several mysterious telephone calls, changed his mind about testifying and tried to escape. But a police spokesman insisted Herr Hass had had only one phone conversation, with his daughter in Switzerland.

Herr Priebke, 82, was extradited from Argentina last year and went on trial last month accused of taking part in the massacre of 335 Italian men and boys at the Ardeatine Caves, on the edge of Rome, in March 1944. Former partisans have testified that they were tortured by Herr Priebke at the Gestapo HQ in Rome.

Herr Hass, who worked for the SS intelligence service and claims he helped Western secret services after the war, would have introduced a new element into the trial by implicating Herr Priebke in the June 1944 murder of Bruno Buozzi, a trade union leader and MP, who was taken out of Gestapo headquarters and driven north just as American troops were advancing on Rome.

## Gestapo officer demands return of art hoard

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A FORMER Gestapo and SS officer has come out of the shadows to fight for the return of his art collection from eastern German galleries.

When the Allies began bombing Chemnitz, where Jochen Thuenmler ran the police administration, he ordered his collection to be moved to a depot in the Erzgebirge mountain range. The crates, marked with his name, were placed alongside the property of state museums. After the war, his collection was absorbed into Chemnitz city museums.

Herr Thuenmler claims it included an 8th-century silver goblet, a Renaissance baptismal font, and paintings. But Peter Fittig, the culture director of Chemnitz City Council, said: "We will give nothing to a criminal."

Under postwar Soviet military law, all war criminals had to forfeit their property. But Herr Thuenmler has never been convicted, and all charges were dropped in 1970.

Chemnitz City Council maintains that the Soviet decree applied to police chiefs even if war crimes were unproven. But his case, now in court, has highlighted another controversy: that of Holocaust victims seeking the return of art treasures they claim are in eastern German museums.

Herr Thuenmler says his collection is composed of heirlooms but concedes that some works were brought from Dresden, where he was police chief in 1938. Many Jews were forced to sell off their treasures cheaply. Historian Peter Heuss says a "large portion" of his collection was almost certainly Jewish property.

## Prague Left puts brake on market reforms

BY ROGER BOYES

THE Government of Vaclav Klaus, the most Euro-sceptic leader in Central Europe, may yet survive its battering at the polls but will have to surrender some of its Thatcherite zeal in privatising the economy.

That was the outlook last night after a deal was struck among the three centre-right parties and the opposition Social Democrats, which recorded surprisingly high gains in last weekend's elections.

Milos Zeman, the Social Democrat leader, said that he had accepted a deal whereby his party takes the leadership of parliament in return for support of Mr Klaus's minority Government. Mr Klaus's Civic Democracy Party and his two junior coalition partners command 99 seats in the 200-member parliament.

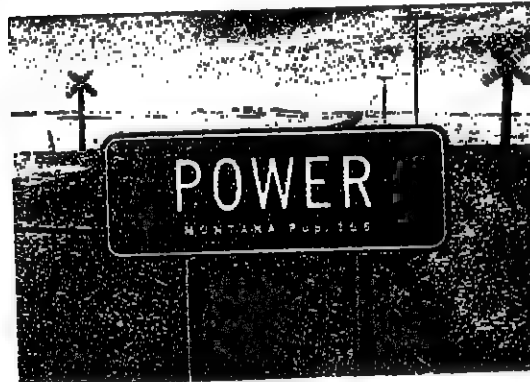
The conditions for backing Mr Klaus are tough. "If the programme of the Government has, as one of its items, further privatisation of transport and energy networks we will not support it," Mr Zeman said.

President Havel, who said that the new Parliament would meet on June 17, seems confident that the new arrangement will survive the full four-year term.

But Mr Zeman hinted that new elections could come as early as 1998. It is therefore by no means clear that Mr Klaus will lead his country into negotiations for membership of the European Union.

There is no doubt that the Czech Republic has lurched to the left. Mr Zeman wants, in addition to slower privatisation, important concessions on pensions, healthcare and education.

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## Patten acts over 'lost' refugee children

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY  
IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, has ordered an inquiry into the 18-day separation of a three-year-old Vietnamese child from her parents after last month's breakout at a detention camp.

The inquiry will also look into how a five-year-old Vietnamese girl was jailed for 12 days in a prison. Their cases have been officially described as "unforgivable".

The girls, born in the camps, were among children separated from their parents during the breakout on May 10 from the High Island Camp. There are 17,000 boat people remaining in Hong Kong camps, most of whom refuse to return to Vietnam.

The three-year-old, Luu Thi Mai, had wandered to another part of the camp during the breakout. She was sent to another camp but was not returned to her parents until May 29.

Both sets of parents insist they reported their children missing from May 11. The five-year-old girl, named Hong Kong, was detained in the camp's "monkey house" for troublemakers. Her mother said the Correctional Services Department refused to accept her repeated attempts to report her missing daughter. She says the authorities told her on May 16 that Hong Kong was in Victoria prison. But she was not returned to her parents until May 22.

## Brother repelled by grim legacy of Pol Pot's terror

BY TOM WALKER



Loth Suong: refuses to talk of Year Zero

THE old man sits cross-legged on the balcony, occasionally dabbing the sweat from his brow. In the sticky heat of the rainy season, the last memory Loth Suong needs is of his younger brother, Saloth Sar — better known to the world as Pol Pot.

If he is dead, his family will not mourn his passing. Loth Suong, 85 and debilitated by a stroke, refuses to talk of Pol Pot. Like many older middle-class Cambodians, he finds Kampuchea Year Zero, when many friends died or disappeared in conditions of pathetic subjugation to children with guns, difficult to erase.

That this genocidal horror was caused by a young brother whom he once looked after only deepens the revulsion. Mr Suong's son-in-law, a Royal Ballet dancer, said: "All questions about him we do not answer. We do not want to."

Mr Suong, whose twilight years are spent in a traditional still house near Phnom Penh, is the only surviving relative of Pol Pot in the capital. Of nine siblings, four are living in rural Kompong Thom province to the north. None of the family has been in touch with the man known by his Khmer Rouge stalwarts as "Brother Number One" for more than 20 years.

Mr Suong worked as Chef

du Protocol at the palace until his young brother's guerrillas "liberated" the capital in 1975. The irony of Pol Pot's life is that he was brought up in middle-class circumstances by a family that for generations had served the royal household. In the 1940s, Mr Suong and his wife, Chea Samy, looked after the young Saloth Sar as he studied at some of the city's best French schools. "The contemptible Pot was a lovely child," Mr Suong once told the Australian political analyst David Chandler.

Yesterday the Cambodian Government gave no official confirmation of his death, although King Norodom Sihanouk, in a letter from Peking, said that "one of the most

terrible tragedies in our history" was nearly over. Khmer Rouge radio has still said nothing of a funeral for Pol Pot described by the guerrilla movement's fighters near the Thai border on Thursday.

Security analysts in Phnom Penh doubted that Pol Pot's death would signal the end of the Khmer Rouge, whose numbers have dwindled to about 6,000 from 50,000 seven years ago. It could, however, presage the movement's splintering into different groups. While Pol Pot's right-hand man, Khieu Samphan, is based in the heavily fortified Phnom Malai base on the Thai border, the rebels' notorious one-legged military commander, Ta Mok, operates further east and deeper into Cambodian territory from a jungle retreat called Anlong Ven. It is here that the kidnapped British mine expert, Christopher Howes, is reportedly being held.

Sok Chenda, Cambodia's Junior Tourism Minister, whose family was wiped out by Pol Pot, said yesterday there was no cause for celebration. "I was born Cambodian, and the horrors of our past cannot be undone. All I want to do is turn the page. My parents and brothers are gone — I am alone."

Leading article, page 21



Goddess Victoria, a Berlin landmark, is provided with a gas mask by a Greenpeace activist yesterday during a protest against summer smog

## Suu Kyi league banned by junta

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
IN RANGOON

BURMA'S military government has issued an order authorising the Home Ministry to ban Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, state-run Rangoon radio reported yesterday.

The order, signed by Senior General Than Shwe, gives the ministry power to ban any organisation holding unlawful gatherings or obstructing the development of a constitution through the Government's National Convention, the report said. The junta's ban is effective immediately.

Members of a proscribed group could be given jail sentences of between five and 20 years and fines if found guilty of encouraging or instigating activities that "adversely affect the national interest", the broadcast said.

Thousands of supporters have gathered outside Daw Suu Kyi's residence every weekend since she was freed from six years of house arrest last July, despite a prohibition on political gatherings of more than five people.

The democracy league was told on Thursday that the party would be banned if it went ahead with a resolution adopted at a party congress last week to draft an alternative constitution and continued to hold public meetings. The league's officials said they would hold meetings this weekend despite the threats.

## Bankruptcy brings black days to sunshine islands

FROM JOHN CAMPBELL IN WELLINGTON

IT IS a South Pacific paradox. The Cook Islands, 15 paradisaical dots in a warm ocean three hours northeast of New Zealand, are bankrupt. The Cooks, as they are called in the region, have everything going for them. Except, that is, a Government that can live within its means.

A former colony of New Zealand, the Cook Islands have a population of 20,000 and a public debt of US\$120 million (£80 million).

In the Cook Islands such figures have been regarded as trivial distractions. But this week the creditors cried "enough". After a meeting in Fiji on Monday, the Cook Islands' Government has agreed to a debt repayment programme that will see more than half the 3,000 civil servants lose their jobs.

The creditors' meeting followed the Cook Islands defaulting on a debt to the tiny

South Pacific nation of Nauru. The Cooks also owe money to New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Italy, America and the Asian Development Bank.

A leading article on Wednesday in New Zealand's highest-circulation newspaper accused the islands of "a shameful degree of political corruption, gross economic mismanagement, woefully inept administration and shameless political patronage". Such pique may be explained by the fact that New Zealand is a substantial for-

eign aid donor to the Cooks. It appears much of that money has been used to prop up a magnificent welfare system and provide almost one in three of the population with jobs in 52 government departments. New Zealand might have ignored all that except that the Cooks explored being a tax haven as one way to draw overseas investors.

The solution to the Cooks' problem, supported by the Asian Development Bank, is to slash government spending and embark on a big privatisation programme. The job losses resulting from both options will take a serious social toll, but the Government was struggling to pay its workers anyway. Paradoxically, New Zealand, having balked at subsidising the wages of a bloated Cook Islands civil service, may find itself paying for those same people to be made redundant.

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**FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM**

Among an array of demands put forward by the Shas, United Torah Judaism and National Religious parties are their price for joining the right-wing coalition of Binyamin Netanyahu, the newly elected Israeli Prime Minister, are calls for an end to all excavation of gravesites. Religious sources are further insisting that no excavations be carried out without

Ultra-Orthodox Jews have long opposed archaeological activities in Israel, fearing they might desecrate Jewish remains, which they regard as sacred. However, Ami Mazar, director of the Hebrew University's respected Archaeological Institute, described the demands as "absurd".

"If they are accepted, it would mean an end to archaeological activity in Israel," he said. Mr Mazar, who like many secular Israelis is de-

He said that if archaeologists were not permitted to carry out their work, it would have a serious impact on development projects since, by law, no building or road can be built on a site containing antiquities if the site has not first been excavated by archaeologists.

One of the hardline coalition negotiators, Rabbi Avraham Ravitz of the United Torah Judaism Party, confirmed that a change in the antiquities law "may be necessary. What we are doing is simply to honour the bones of the dead. Please do not follow the words of those Israeli politicians who describe us as primitive people opposed to science. That is just not true."

The sweeping nature of the religious demands has caused anger in Mr Netanyahu's Likud party and deep anxiety in Israeli society, with many members of the secular majority fearful that they are being ushered into a Jewish fundamentalist state reminiscent of the Islamic fundamentalism of Iran.

Anxiety has increased after reports that the ultra-Orthodox Jews are demanding a ban on legal abortions now granted for "socio-economic reasons", an enforcement of Sabbath driving and transport bans in secular areas, an extension of the law banning the import of non-kosher meat, and a reversion to the 1992 laws affecting places of entertainment.

Even the *Jerusalem Post*, a strong backer of the Right in the election, expressed alarm in an editorial, attacking the "intolerable" efforts of the religious parties to interfere in the lives of secular Jews.

The water-garden of Padua, founded in 1545. The town's botanical riches are in peril because building work has disturbed water supplies.

**FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME**

**EUROPE'S oldest botanical garden, visited and celebrated by writers and plant lovers from John Evelyn to Goethe, is dying because building work near by has drained the aquifers on which the garden's rare plants depend.**

The garden — the Orto Botanico — was founded in 1545 by the Doge of

Venice as part of the ancient University of Padua. It began as a collection of medicinal herbs, similar to the Chelsea Physick Garden. It swiftly expanded and acquired some of the rarest plants in the world, making Padua into a mecca for botanists.

The garden is threatened by the construction of an underground car park beneath a block of flats on adjacent land. While digging the foundations, the contractors are al-

leged to have drained the aquifers which have fed the five-acre garden for the past four and a half centuries.

Plants at risk include a famous palm tree — *Chamaerops humilis arborescens* — which was planted in 1585 and which inspired Goethe to formulate his theory of the metamorphosis of plants when he visited Padua in 1787. Other endangered species include what is said to be the oldest Himalayan cedar in Europe.

planted in 1822; a giant California sequoia; and a grove of hickories 100ft high, planted in 1760. Yew trees at the edge of the garden have already died.

**Patrizio Giuliani**, professor of botany at Padua University and one of the garden's official conservationists, says he lobbied against the building work when it began a year ago, warning of the possible dangers. He was overruled by the local authorities.

**BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT**

**THE Israeli religious parties' demand that archaeology should be restricted will be widely opposed within Israel and abroad. The country currently hosts more excavations than any other in the Middle East, with a density of diggers among the highest in the world.**

Archaeology has also been a potent tool of Israeli politics since the foundation of the Jewish state in 1948. Israel has used the remains of the

past to bolster its modern claim to ancient Palestine, from Galilee to Gaza, and from Moab to Mount Carmel.

Dozens of digs each year are carried out on sites ranging in age from the Palaeolithic — Ubeidiya is estimated to be nearly a million years old — to the Christian era. Only sites of the Islamic period from the 7th century onwards have been neglected.

**By CHRISTOPHER WALKER**

**AS LEADERS** of Egypt and Saudi Arabia gathered for a mini-summit in Damascus yesterday, Syria issued a blunt warning that the hardline approach by Israel's right-wing Prime Minister-elect was jeopardising the Middle East peace process.

Shortly before President Mubarak of Egypt and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia met President Assad, the state-controlled Syrian media claimed that Israel's attempt

to negotiate while refusing to contemplate returning the occupied Golan Heights would torpedo the whole process.

"The Israeli extremists must understand that what they promote as peace for peace are hollow and meaningless calls that no Arab can accept," the daily *al-Thawra* said. "Peace will either be through regaining the whole of the [Israeli-occupied] Arab territory or it will never be."

The warning came as Israel radio broadcast the first details of the policy framework

**BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR**

THE last contentious issue at the United Nations housing summit in Istanbul was resolved yesterday, after America withdrew its opposition to the declaration of adequate housing as a human right. Europe has supported calls from developing countries for this right to be enshrined in the Habitat II final agenda, but America, wary of possible litigation by homeless people,

The US agreed yesterday to a Canadian-brokered compromise. It states: "Everyone has a right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing, housing, water and sanitation, and for the continuous improvement in living conditions."

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## OPINION

Is it time to rein in the drug culture depicted in such films as *Trainspotting*?



## THEATRE

At Chichester, Peter Ustinov seems uneasy in the role of a great composer in *Beethoven's Tenth*

## THE TIMES ARTS

## BASE NOTE

The controversial photographs of the late Robert Mapplethorpe are lined up for London

## BASE NOTE

"Love, booze, race, religion and politics" are promised in a show of Randy Newman songs

You may recall Frank Zappa's definition of rock journalism: "People who can't write interviewing people who can't talk for people who can't read". In which case you will be saddened to discover that this article is largely a discussion of the *New Musical Express*. But fear not. My subject is not the prose style of its emerald scribes. Nor is it rock music as such. It is an altogether darker matter: drug abuse within the music industry.

I do not say that every pop star is hooked on heroin. Doubtless the vast majority are pure than the driven slush, and exist on stimulants no stronger than PCP and Koolhaas Mint Cake. But that is not the image you receive from the pop-music press. Take the venerable *NME*. The magazine is not some underground rag; it has a long history, a mainstream publisher (IPC), and a big readership among under-25s. But what would shock any newcomer to its pages is how casual and commonplace are its allusions to drugs.

## Mugs and drugs and rock'n'roll

Let's flick through this week's issue. The cover headline sets the tone: "Dave Gahan Drugs Arrest" — page 3. This story tells in great detail how the singer "overdosed on a cocktail of heroin and cocaine injected intravenously", passed out, and was arrested.

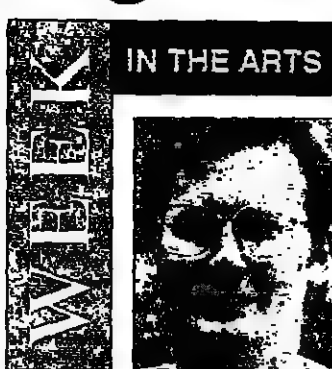
Page 13 introduces us to a teenage chanteuse apparently called Nut, who "after two years of cannabis and clubs... decided to become an actress". On the next page is a profile of "America's coolest (and richest) revolutionaries" — a band called Rancid. "I drank the whole time; I did drugs," says its vocalist, Tim Armstrong.

There is some respite on page 16, when Tim Booth (of a band called James) reveals a comparatively harmless pastime: "I had this Tibetan shaman who covered me in yak's butter and set fire to me." But the respite is only temporary.

"Nowadays, this one-time vegan eats meat for energy, dabbles in drink and drugs, and enjoys the occasional shag frenzy," *NME* reassures us. So he's back on the rails, then.

On page 19, which profiles Ocean Colour Scene, "Bassist Damon Minchella... tries to convince us that he feels better than he can remember for years because he hasn't touched any drugs for eight days. This, rest assured, will change within 24 hours."

Page 22 carries a report of the Brighton Essential Music Festival. The writer reminds us that this is the first of the summer's big rock events. Which means? You can probably guess: "Over the next three months, approximately 28 lorryloads of dangerous drugs will be imbibed." Page 25, meanwhile, chronicles the defining moment of one Mark Linkous, of the group



RICHARD MORRISON

Sparkhorse: "Former heroin addict and eccentric musical genius Mark had collapsed in a London hotel bathroom..."

You must be kidding. The books include the history of a well-known group whose lead singer is depicted "taking loads of Ecstasy". And, of course, there is a generous appraisal of Irvine Welsh's latest book: *Ecstasy — Three Tales of Chemical Romance*.

And finally, on page 34, a former member of the Stone Roses is asked what he has been doing lately. "I've done a bit of mountain biking, smoked copious amounts of dope — just taking it easy, really," he replies.

Of course, *NME*'s journalists will argue that they are merely holding up a mirror to the pop world, not encouraging their young readers to join in the merry dance of death. That is true, though the morally neutral tone of the writing is disturbing in itself. They will also

point out that many of their drug stories are cautionary tales of disaster followed by reform. That is true, too — although what emerges is the impression that "doing drugs" is an essential, rite-of-passage thing for any cool teenager. And with *Ecstasy* apparently cheaper than ever before, there is plenty of opportunity.

Finally, they will argue that musicians were taking drugs long before *NME*'s present writers were born, and that the only difference now is that today's stoned stars are much more overt about it. It is this very frankness, however, that is so depressing. Continual references to drugs in music magazines and cult films such as *Trainspotting* and *Pulp Fiction* may be reflections of society. But teenagers shape their lives according to what they see and read. The injunction that we

are supposed to give to children — "just say no" — implies that they already know drugs are bad, and that it is just a matter of resisting peer pressure. But the problem now is that a huge area of popular culture — dance clubs, music, novels, films, magazines — is founded on the premise that drugs are not bad at all, but a quick and pleasurable form of escapism.

I am no fan of the sporting authorities, whose standards of pusillanimity and greed are often appalling. But at least when a doped-up sportsman is caught out, he is branded a cheat, ostracised and ruined — not admired as some sort of rebel. If the music industry could develop a similar attitude to its drug addicts, the pro-drugs climate of popular culture would be transformed. Talented pop stars would not "burn out" so quickly. The shadowy Svengalis who pull their strings would feel better about themselves. The music might even sound better. But somebody must be brave enough to make the first move.

## Schoenberg in an echo chamber

PROFESSOR of Music at Manchester University and one of the most commissioned of British composers, John Casken scarcely needs a conducting job as well. But, as Composer in Association with the Northern Sinfonia, he has been doing more, and more conducting. "Next season" — while working on a second opera, among other things — he will be involved in the development of the Sinfonia's newly formed contemporary music ensemble. And he is interested in conducting more than his own music.

Casken's most recent concert with the Northern Sinfonia, in the Lyons Concert Hall at York University, was dedicated, it seemed, to demonstrating the lasting vitality of Schoenberg's early Chamber Symphony, Op. 9. Certainly, there was no lack of vitality in his interpretation of that uniquely coloured score, which — above all for its energy — generated by the compression of symphonic material and symphonic structural features into a one-movement form on a chamber scale — will probably prove more influential in the long term than, for all their technical innovations, the later serial works.

John Adams's Chamber Symphony has just that kind of energy — it too is driven by compressed prodigy. The first movement, *Mongrel Airs*, is particularly successful in its hectic accretions of disparate material, from American car-

## Northern Sinfonia/Casken York

toon tunes to a violin cadenza of grotesquely exaggerated virtuosity. It is a pity that, after the central *Aria* with *Walking Bass*, the final *Road-runner* cannot reach the degree of exhilaration aimed at from the beginning of the work.

Adams's Chamber Symphony adds a few instruments, including percussion and synthesizer, to the Schoenberg Chamber Symphony ensemble. Karen Markham's *The Wheel has Turned* takes a few away but the Schoenberg sound survives in the occasional vestigial echo. The work is based, according to the composer, on the thoughts of the Sufi mystic Bawa Muhaiyadeen. To the ear, it is a perfectly comprehensible, attractively tuneful, resourcefully written and soundly structured score. The Northern Sinfonia's performance clearly did not solve all the problems of ensemble but, after their heroic and remarkably well-aimed exertions in the Adams Chamber Symphony, nobody could reproach them for that.

GERALD LARNER

## Master déclassé

## THEATRE

## Beethoven's Tenth Chichester

Peter Ustinov has always been good at playing pouchy eccentrics with mid-European accents, and, since few men have been more eccentric, mid-European or pouchy than Beethoven, Ustinov could not be better cast than he is at Chichester. The question, however, is whether the play he wrote for himself in 1983 is worth reviving at all. On the evidence of Joe Harman's ponderous production, I fear the answer is no. When decent actors get stilted, and even the author does not seem 100 per cent sure of his lines, something must be wrong.

The idea is that Beethoven materialises and regains his hearing in the house of Stephen Faulstich, a contemporary critic writing an arid, tendentious tome about him. This allows Ustinov to trundle lugubriously about the stage, his rancid clothes suggesting he has been booted out of a hotel in a downwardly mobile section of the Elysian Fields. This sort of thing comes to him as easily as ocean travel to a whale; he does it well, and it is fun to watch.

The difficulty facing Ustinov the author is greater. What to do with the curmudgeonly time-traveller in the London of 1983 or 1996? There is, after all, limited mileage in jokes about the holes in the middle of CDs or the awfulness of a city where hamburger joints are not meeting-places for earnest north Germans. Ustinov has

several solutions to this problem, but none is satisfactory in itself and collectively they give his play an unfocused feel.

Partly, the topic seems to be the eagerness of critics to intellectualise an art which should be providing unself-conscious joy. At any rate, Beethoven is required to complain to John Neville's Stephen, who thinks he knows more about him than he knows about himself, of scholars who over-analyse everything, down to "the urine in your chamberpot". The trouble is that this is more a matter of statement than dramatic conflict, for the wretched critic actually asks only one important question: who was the "immortal beloved" to whom the composer wrote those heartfelt letters?

This query brings onstage ghosts from Ludwig's past, among them the beautiful Countess Giulietta Guicciardi, who tells him: "I will always love you, I cannot help that, but life with you would kill me." It is an awkwardly managed episode and, given Ustinov's mistrust of biographical speculation, a surprising one; but at least it passes quickly. We revert to what is, I suppose, the evening's main emphasis: the

grouchy but good-hearted maestro's healing effect on folk called Faulstich.

Lamenting his own sad relationship with his nephew Karl, he becomes a one-man counselling service. He anatomises the critic's envy of his composer-son, gives the boy helpful if harsh creative advice, proves to Stephen's wife she hasn't lost her one-time talent as a singer, twigs that the au pair is pregnant, and gets her to set up shop with the putative father. "Before he came we were deafier than he was," says someone. "Now we're listening."

Would this conclusion be more impressive if Neville's Faulstich and Liz Robertson's Mrs Faulstich were less waxen and glazed? I doubt it. To transport so formidable a figure so far, and then use him as a not-too-interesting family's agony aunt, strikes me as a reckless waste of resources.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



"This sort of thing comes to him as easily as ocean travel to a whale; he does it well, and it is fun to watch": Peter Ustinov in the revival of his own *Beethoven's Tenth*

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## BASE NOTES

THE South Bank is to mount what is billed as the most extensive Robert Mapplethorpe exhibition ever later this year. Mapplethorpe's photographs, whose sexually explicit images sparked controversy throughout his short career, are to be seen in London as part of a retrospective at the Hayward Gallery (September 19 to November 17). The show, which includes more than 200 works, ranges from his glamorous society portraits to his graphic portrayals of sadomasochism.

LAST Monday's rapturously received *Crowded House* concert at London's Hammersmith Grand turns out to have been their last. The New Zealand band have announced their own extinction on the eve of releasing *Recurring Dream*, a "Best Of..." retrospective. "I think we were beginning to repeat ourselves," says frontman Neil Finn.

THE work of Randy Newman is to be celebrated in a new show at London's Tricycle Theatre. *Roll With The Punches* will play from July 4 to August 8 and stars George Costigan as the American songwriter. "It's a tale of love, booze, race, religion and politics," says the director Chris Bond.

WHAT is claimed to be the world's first museum of biography is one step closer to reality with the news that the Arts Council has awarded the British Institute of Biography £94,000 towards a feasibility study. The study will look into the possibilities of the £20 million scheme, called the Biorama Real Lives Centre project, to create the "world's first arts forum devoted entirely to the interpretation of real lives". If it does go ahead, the museum would be sited at Egham, near Windsor.

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## ■ THEATRE

Broadway is back to its winning ways with a run of excellent revivals

## ■ MUSIC

Ireland comes to London today, as the Chieftains lead the Fleadh in Finsbury Park

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## ■ CHOICE

From Britten's music at Aldeburgh to the big pop gigs: see Weekend, page 14, for the top events

## ■ ON MONDAY

Sting talks about his new career in films; plus Rodney Milnes at Glyndebourne



Antic antics: Mary Ann Lamb and Nathan Lane in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*

## The potluck of the Irish

POP: Today's Fleadh in London will be a celebration of all things Irish, or at least Irish-ish

There are two kinds of musician: the Irish and those who wish they were. That, at least, is the popular wisdom in the musical clubs and pubs of Dublin, Cork and Galway. Supporting evidence is offered in Finsbury Park, north London, today by Fleadh-96, the largest festival of Irish music in Britain.

This year traditional Irish acts such as the Chieftains and Clannad and a newer generation of Irish singers including Mary Coughlan and the brilliant Shred Lohan all give way at the top of the bill to the Geordie-born Sting. The Irishness of a range of other artists, including Jools Holland, Lloyd Cole and such transatlantic imports as John Prine and 10,000 Maniacs, is equally dubious. Yet it is not difficult to see why English rock musicians are so anxious to associate with the Irish at present. All things Gaelic have never been more in vogue in hip London. In the 1970s white rock stars wanted to record with Jamaican musicians. By the 1980s the likes of Paul Simon and Peter Gabriel were looking towards Africa. Today it is the Emerald Isle. Mick Jagger, Mark Knopfler, Kate Bush (singing in Gaelic) and even Tom Jones have all recorded with Irish musicians.

*Riverdance*, a celebration of Irish steps and music, has become the most unexpected hit in recent showbiz history. Irish stouts have become the designer drinks of the 1990s. In short, the rest of Britain has discovered the delights of the *craic*, that uniquely Irish approach to having a good time that encompasses music, joking, storytelling, drinking and frequently, at the end of the evening, falling down.

Cole says: "There's a soul thing to the music. Quite simply, Irish people have it and we don't." Irish musicians have something in common spiritually with black musicians, he says. "Just listen to Van Morrison. Even when he's singing traditional Irish music, he doesn't sound white."

Yet there are essentially two Irish scenes in London. One centres around trendy clubs and bars in Soho and Camden: the other is based, as it always has been, in the run-down pubs and drafty halls of Kilburn and the north London Irish hinterland. They are a world apart. Venues such as the Galtymore in Cricklewood Broadway and the National in Kilburn will pack in a thousand Irish folk at a weekend to see performers, usually dressed in spangly green or red blazers, singing sentimental songs about Mary and Kathleen back home. The more youthful and mostly English aficionados of Irish music scarcely know such places exist. The older, easy listening audience is suspicious of the new converts.

But the two scenes have one thing in common: the black stuff. "We are on record as selling the most Guinness in any one day at any event ever," says Vince Power, the driving force behind Mean Fiddler, the Fleadh organiser. Tomorrow is likely to top the 54,000 pints consumed at last year's event — one in 20 of all the pints of Guinness consumed in Britain on the day. We are all Irish now.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

● Fleadh-96 is at Finsbury Park, London N4 today and tomorrow. Tickets cost £28; gates open 11am

# So good they did them twice

Edward Karam enjoys Broadway revivals of two musicals and two American classics that put the cap on an excellent season

star a little, since Lane does not just fish for laughs, he throws out nets.

Mark Linn-Baker, an equally dextrous clown, uses less effort in the role of Hysterium. Impersonating a virgin, he sings "I'm lovely" as he winsomely curls a finger in his blond wig. Ernie Sabella (the voice of Pumbaa to Lane's Timon in *The Lion King*) plays the oily procurer Lycus with relish.

Though Christopher Renshaw's new Australian production of *The King and I* is often funny too, he invests the old chestnut with the power of operatic tragedy. Lou Diamond Phillips, best known as Richie Valens in the film *La Bamba*, creates a king who is inquisitive, stubborn, and occasionally ruthless. As Donna Murphy's prim but not sexless Anna takes the measure of his bluster and steel, she nudges him along the path

to Westernising Siam. The Rodgers and Hammerstein standards seem brand new and gleam as brightly as the ubiquitous gold on Brian Thomson's set.

In an age of actors who sing secondarily, the voices are extraordinary, particularly Jose Liana as Lun Thia and Joohae Choi as Tuptim in *We Kiss in a Shadow*; *Something Wonderful* from Taekwon Kim as Mme Liang; and Murphy in *Hello, Young Lovers*. Renshaw's attention to detail means that each tyke in the *March of the Siamese Children* has an individual personality — and they are cute, not cutesy.

Serious drama revisits two classics about dysfunctional families. Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* focuses on civil strife in the cocktail set; Sam Shepard's *Buried Child* on dirt-poor derelicts.

Director Gerald Gutierrez has cast several parts in Albee's dark, suburban fable about 20 years older than called for. But with Rosemary Harris as Agnes, under siege from Elaine Stritch's alcoholic Claire — sister, irritant and former lover of Agnes's husband Tobias — who could complain? Stritch brings not only precisely calibrated comic timing, but also a remarkable physicality: she stretches for a Martini with all her limbs. Harris underscores Agnes's care in choosing and inflecting her words, which suggest peacetime diplomacy. Suddenly, however, two friends arrive, beset by a nebulous fear and seeking permanent refuge in Tobias's grandly spacious home. George Grizzard's complacent Tobias is forced to take control, balancing his domestic obligations with social ones. Grizzard's halting, anguished last-act

speech as he struggles with the situation is masterly.

Sam Shepard has reportedly rewritten about 50 per cent of *Buried Child* for the Steppenwolf production directed by Gary Sinise, who shows more flair with the added comedy than with the sombre moments. Shelly, the young woman brought for a visit to her boyfriend Vince's family farm, now declares that she is a vegetarian. "Hilder was a vegetarian," growls Dodge, Vince's lice-infested grandfather.

Shepard's portrayal of the American family as physically, mentally and emotionally stunted carries a sharpened sense of infantilism, as the cantankerous Dodge screams for his bottle (whiskey, not formula), while his sour son Bradley (Leo Burmester), minus a leg, fights for his blanket. Incessuous Momma Halie (Lois Smith), in a red wig, slobbers over the preacher. Kelley Overbey, as Shelly, reacts to it with bewilderment that modulates into defiance, and gets out while she can.



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Peter Stothard reports from southern Italy on how the regional rivalries of the new Europe draw on the study of classical antiquity

## The paradoxes of Zeno's countrymen

Campania IS Campania. Campania IS NOT Naples. So cries Antonio Rastrelli, ex-Fascist, ex-minister, aged 68 and living out his last political years as an elected regional boss in the Italian South. He does not need to shout and punch the air: he is talking to a few supporters and a group of European newspaper editors. But he cannot stop himself. He is angry.

Like Simon Jenkins, Matthew Parris and many readers of *The Times* who have written to us since our debate on regionalism began last month, Signor Rastrelli senses growing opportunities throughout Europe for cultural and political independence. But he has a particular fear — that Naples, his big city neighbour, will ride the tide more successfully than Salerno and other smaller, equally independent-minded towns. "The problem of Campania IS Naples," he explodes, with a final fist-flying flourish.

Our editors' group had, as he well knew, just driven in from Naples. We had been judges of the

Premio Napoli, a European journalism prize. And we had just met Signor Rastrelli's great rival, Antonio Bassolino, the charismatic ex-Communist Mayor of Naples, who had vaunted his own plans to make his city more autonomous and its artistic heritage a source of massive future funds from Brussels.

Signor Bassolino is not an opponent whom a sensible man would choose to take on. He is a tough, intelligent street-trained politician who leads one of the world's most glorious and notorious cities. He seems perpetually watchful, with neither a Winston cigarette nor a witty word of self-deprecation ever far from his lips. Like his regional rival, his origins lie in an ideology that is now bankrupt. But while Signor Rastrelli seems to have little changed his style since the days of Mussolini (he calls himself the "father" of his Campania region),

Signor Bassolino has buried his Communism as deeply as Khrushchev said it would bury us.

Culture wars, however, are notoriously unpredictable, and Naples is not an easy city to sell. Although Signor Bassolino has won international acclaim for curbing city-centre traffic and crime, to all but the most learned visitors the artistic glories of his city will always be something of a muddle. Most tourists go home confused about the patchwork of painting schools in the past millennium. If they have used an official guide the confusion is likely to be greater still: there is a Bassolino dream to turn young proto-pickpockets into site-custodians and "communicators of culture" but it will not easily be fulfilled.

As for instilling local pride in the past, where should he start? In front of the royal palace there is a

row of statues of Neapolitan rulers, from Roger the Norman, through Germans, Spaniards and Frenchmen to Victor Emmanuel II of Savoy. None is a local hero. Signor Bassolino, even though his voyage from communism has not turned him as far as Christianity, seizes with enthusiasm upon the local liquefaction of St Gennaro's blood each year. "St Gennaro is the mayor of saints," he says, granting the holy man of Naples his ultimate accolade. "More like the saint of mayors." Comments one of my fellow judges.

The Campanian part of our tour concentrates on an idea that is much more easily understood than most things Neapolitan. On the coast of Campania, inhabited by free-spirited Greek exiles 2,500 years ago, modern philosophy began: or, as Signor Rastrelli puts it in his inimitable way, "Magna

Græcia IS here." A few miles away from Salerno lies the Greek colony of Paestum. By the side of three giant preserved temples, our guide vigorously deploys a map from the days, in the 5th and 6th century BC, when southern Italy, from Syracuse to Cumae, was the intellectual centre of the West.

Naples was, of course, also a part of Magna Græcia then, but "only a small part". At nearby Vela, "a more important Campanian site", we are reminded of Parmenides and Zeno, the first logical philosophers, who were applying reason to man's existence here "when Milan was a mud village and Bologna a barley field".

This philosophical pair made a ferocious double act. Parmenides argued that there was one unchanging, knowable entity and that the world of appearances could not be trusted. Zeno constructed his

famous paradoxes to prove how any opponent of this view must be wrong. When we hear Signor Rastrelli and his allies arguing how "there is ONE Campania and Naples IS NOT Campania", it is hard to resist the thought that ontology runs in the blood here.

At Vela the acropolis is covered with wild flowers and the Rose Gate is one of the most mysterious arches of antiquity. But the site is not as accessible as the regional government of Campania would like. Signor Rastrelli's men want better roads to bring more tourists to their politically advantageous places. He declares that his Campanians are "orphans of the old political system" and must use their past to connect themselves, independently of Naples and Rome, to the rest of Europe. Salerno University, whose medical studies are traced proudly back to Parmenides,

has found funding from Brussels for new courses in how to communicate the work of their local historians.

History-book rivalries are nothing new in Italy. As long as the country has been united, its leaders have argued (and not always peacefully) about whether the fascists-wavers of ancient Rome were a better model than the Renaissance rivals of Florence. The South may have been excluded from much of modern Italian developments, but not from that. Today the biggest argument is about a new international airport which cannot be built unless Signori Rastrelli and Bassolino agree. But there are worries about what may come next as voters test their strengths.

Whatever the dangers, however, there is still something joyous in the determination of communities to uncover the places closest to them. Whatever the outcome of IGCs and EMUs, this will be a vital issue of our European future, determining prosperity in Salerno and Naples and far beyond.

## Are judges now the Opposition?

Michael Beloff QC on the conflict between judiciary and executive

This week's debate in the House of Lords on judicial participation in public controversy, instigated by Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, the long-serving Shadow Lord Chancellor, can only reinforce the widely held belief that the relationship between two branches of the constitution, the executive and the judiciary, is at a low ebb.

The need for such a debate would have been unthinkable even a decade ago. The major reason for the current tension is the degree to which a beleaguered Government considers that judges have overstepped the boundary which lies between law and politics, and have become — in fact, if not in aim — a part of the Opposition.

The courts are constantly placing tripwires in the Government's path over such matters as railway franchises, the regulations to curtail benefits to asylum-seekers, and the fixing of a minimum period of detention for the young murderers of James Bulger. The taking up of office this week of Lord Woolf as Master of the Rolls will herald no period of judicial self-restraint: extra-judicial counsel and gamekeeper, he has turned as judge into the most vigorous of poachers: nor does Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Taylor of Gosforth's successor, sound anything other than an independent trumpet.

What are the causes of the well documented growth of judicial review — the modern name for the control by the courts of the lawfulness, fairness and reasonableness of the decisions of public authorities? Some are technical: the modernisation of the procedures and remedies between 1977 and 1981, now under prospect of facing further reform in the light of the successive reports of the Law Commission in 1994 and Lord Woolf in 1995. Some are personal: overall the contemporary leaders of the judiciary are intellectually more adventurous and temperamentally more creative than their predecessors. A decade and a half of one-party rule has prompted members of the public and, in particular, pressure groups to exploit the new opportunities offered by a developing administrative law. And, as Simon Jenkins has demonstrated in *The Tory Nationalisation of Britain*, the perpetual reforms of British institutions have enlarged the target for legal remedies.

But there are more profound influences at play. Prime among them is the impact of Europe. Although the capacity of the domestic judges to displace even Acts of Parliament was genetically im-

planted in the European Communities Act 1972, it was not until the decisions more than two decades on in *Factortame* (the Spanish fishing case) and *Marshall No 2* (the equal retiring ages case) that this capacity was given widely publicised expression. Judges such as Lord Woolf himself and Mr Justice Laws have even hinted that in extreme cases, where fundamental liberties were at stake, the judges could overrule statute by reference to the common law — a position last held by Sir Edward Coke in the 17th century.

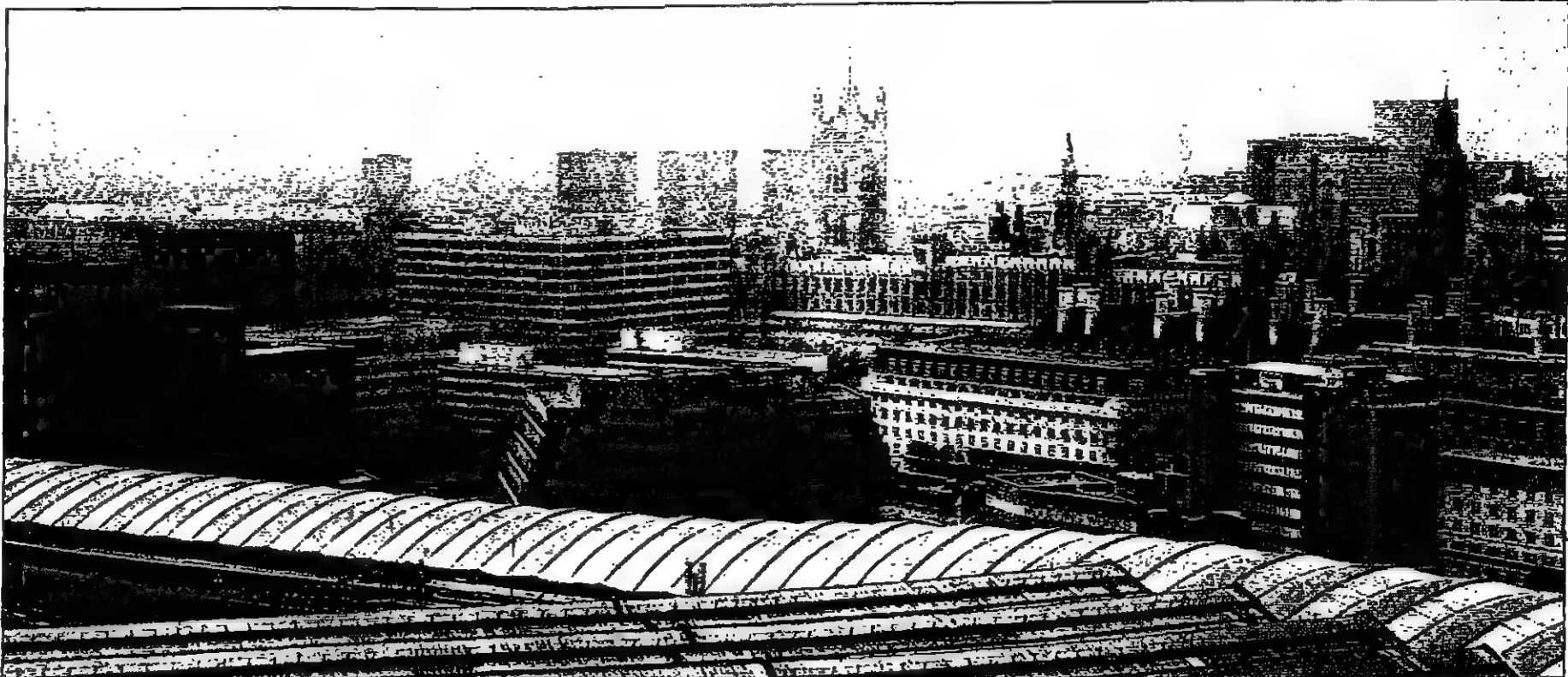
The European Convention on Human Rights, although not part of English law, has certainly influenced the thinking of the judiciary, and has been deployed in a variety of ways to adorn their decisions. The principles of administrative law have grown to the extent that decisions of less than a decade's vintage can be treated not as binding precedent, but as obsolete.

As so often, it is the perception, rather than the reality which has aggravated the situation. The Government wins far more cases than it loses; but its defeats command the headlines, its victories are confined to the law reports. In an effort to correct the picture the Master of the Rolls in the recent case of *ex p. Pierson* felt obliged to say that "the case involved no challenge to the Secretary of State personally; he was named in the application because he was responsible for the department within which the decisions were made".

Anyone who recalls the vigour with which the Denning court laid about the alleged maladministration of the Labour Government will know that the judges are impartial between the parties. However, the subjects that now engage the courts, schools, transport and the environment, are the very stuff of politics. The judges may not be political; they cannot escape the fact that their decisions have profound political impact.

In 1956, Lord Devlin, a candidate for judge of the century, said that the common law lacked the "strength to provide any satisfactory solution to the problem of keeping the executive under proper control; the responsibility for that now lies with Parliament".

The exact reverse has occurred. The constant skirmishes at the boundary between the titans of law and of politics may disenchant the public at large and diminish their confidence in both. Judicial control of the executive vindicates the rule of law: executive control of the judiciary destroys it.



The Palace of Westminster, seen from above the Eurostar terminus on the South Bank; the proposed development would replace the hexagonal block in the centre foreground

## No room for London's view

A plan is afoot to blight the approach to Westminster, yet neither Government nor Parliament seems to care

Dear God, the very houses seem asleep, and all that mighty heart is lying still." I hate to hack at Wordsworth, but for once we have a serious attack of sleeping houses, and by Westminster Bridge itself.

The houses are those of Parliament. A plan is afoot of which I doubt if a single MP or peer is aware. It concerns a site just 200 yards from Big Ben in the heart of the capital. Were that 200 yards on the north bank of the Thames there would be uproar. Instead it is over Westminster Bridge on the opposite bank. As far as the denizens of Westminster are concerned, that is the Wild South. There live dragons, socialists and the ghosts of County Hall. The district could sink back into the river swamp for all they care. Yet it is the one bit of south London that politicians see every working day of their lives. It is a landmark site. It should be London's Arc de Triomphe.

The local Lambeth Council recently cut a deal with a firm of developers variously named Progress Estates or Galliard Homes to fill in the gardens behind old County Hall with two huge residential blocks. This easing of normal housing density was in return for a modest £1 million "consideration" to the council (on a profit that could be as high as £40 million). The same group has now put together a deal with the council to construct two large office blocks, on the roundabout on the south side of Westminster Bridge. They would block in the view across the bridge south from Parliament.

The site is at present occupied by an ugly and empty tiered hexagonal block, riddled with asbestos. When last discussed at a public inquiry, this building was to be demolished and replaced by a public square. The square would balance Parliament Square to the north and be framed by the Eurostar terminal at one end and the view of Big Ben at the other. The replacement of the mean St Thomas hospital extension offered the chance of a foil to Big Ben. This and the renovation of the County Hall entrance with its famous lion would project the bridge approach as a triumphal entry to the heart of the capital.

This square was to be a showcase for British urban design on one of the few sites still available in the city centre and near the Thames. Passengers arriving at Waterloo's Channel Tunnel terminus would be able to see out across the square to the river and the towers of Westminster beyond, at the moment of drawing into Waterloo station. At last there was an opportunity for some urban design as good as anything in Paris.

Yet how typically British. We propose instead two commercial office blocks by an unknown firm called BUJ Architects. They will fill the site of the original square and obliterate any hope of a view. The

Simon Jenkins

blocks have recently been reduced by two storeys under pressure from English Heritage, but retain their original bulk.

The new County Hall area is to be an unplanned mass of densely packed commercial buildings, worthy only of a Moscow ringway.

This really what John Gummer means by his commitment to being a self-styled "Minister for London"? I am told that Lambeth Council has been offered an undisclosed "consideration", a matter to which the Audit Commission might turn its attention. Payments of this sort are in my book nothing short of legalised bribery. I would be happy to test the definition of that term in the courts.

Lambeth council is behaving as the worst Tory council behaved when in thrall to property interests. That it should be happening under the nose of Parliament, within sight of Tony Blair's office and on the way to the party headquarters in Walworth Road is astonishing. But at this point politics raises its head.

To Lambeth councillors, the northern boundary is lost land, bereft of Labour voters and good only for squeezing small cash from bad development.

The agreement to fill in the County Hall gardens with expensive flats is astonishing from a party supposedly committed to urban greenery. County Hall itself is destined to open next year as a Japanese aquarium, courtesy of the Government. One of the most promising Thameside sites is "now leased" out... like to a tenement or "peeling farm", to borrow from Shakespeare, another poet whose ghost inhabits these parts.

If Lambeth wants to abuse the South Bank as a showcase of Tory greed, I sense that the Government is happy to exploit it for a similar but converse reason. Ministers are acutely embarrassed by County Hall, still derelict ten years after its seizure by Kenneth Baker. Environment Secretary in Margaret Thatcher's Government, it was left empty as public symbol of all that was worst in the old Greater London Council. This was a pastiche of the communist habit of seizing aristocratic castles and leaving them to rot as monuments to the *ancien régime*.

The Government did not intervene to stop building on County Hall gardens, though it had powers to do so. I suppose it will be in no

mood to intervene to protect the sight-lines to Big Ben. Lambeth can be accused of wrecking the place and that will suit ministers fine. There is, of course, no London authority body to blow the whistle on this scandal. The last London-wide authority is in concrete shoes at the bottom of a new aquarium.

This way most of the interested parties end up happy, and some end up rich. The only interested party not involved is the public interest. I venture to suggest the public would like a square. Central government meddles at will in local affairs when it suits, but pleads local discretion when it can scratch political capital from the resulting mess. Like the horrors of Marsham Street or the scandal of the British Library, there is no buck that is passed with the swiftness of a British Government buck.

London's Westminster Bridge is not a local matter. It is an international landmark. The bridge itself, though sadly not Wordsworth's, still offers an unequalled view of London. Squalid politics should not dictate changes to this view. In Berlin and Paris the handling of the approach to Westminster Bridge would be a challenge to the design excellence of the age. Politics comes and goes, but monuments live for ever.

Wordsworth was in no doubt. "Dull might be of soul who could pass by, a sight so touching in its majesty." But dull would he also be who could not stop this disaster on its way to happen. Indeed the very houses are asleep. The mighty heart is lying still. No one is in charge.

## On the ball

LABOUR politicians are tripping over themselves to be seen participating in the European football championship. Both in the VIP box and down in the stands it will be hard to shovelled down a meat pie without being interrupted by the strangled chants of a Shadow Cabinet member. In contrast, the Tories are staying away.

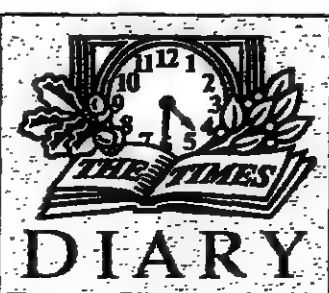
Attending for Labour will be their leader, Tony Blair, who is expected at both the opening game

today and at games at St James' Park, the home of his team, Newcastle United. David Blunkett, the Shadow Health spokesman, will be going to as many games as possible at Hillsborough, in his home town of Sheffield.

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, promises to go to a few games, while in the office of Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, you can almost hear the rattles and the clink of furious scarf knitting. "Gordon will be going to as many games as he can," says his staff. "England v Scotland, of course, the final and any others we can get tickets for."

Though they had Michael Howard, Kenneth Clarke and Virginia Bottomley all jostling in the VIP box at the FA Cup Final, Tories are airy about attending Euro 96. Those definitely off games include most of the heavyweights — Heseltine, Rifkind, Portillo, Hogg, Dorrell, Shephard. Only the Prime Minister, Kenneth Clarke, and Virginia Bottomley have even the vaguest plans to attend. A lesson in popular politics is in order.

● Cockroach trouble has hit Trinity College, Cambridge, the univer-



sity's, and one of the country's, richest institutions. Last week the college was forced to bring in the pest controllers after a series of student-roach tussles in the 18th-century New Court buildings. The pest men are pessimistic. "These cockroaches are crafty," says a spokesman. "Trinity has a war of attrition on its hands."

### Right off

MEL GIBSON, Australia's Olivier, has stamped on claims by Pat Buchanan, the failed Republican presidential candidate, that he is a Buchanan supporter. Buchanan had expressed his keen admiration for the "lock and load" populism of Gibson's Oscar-winning film, *Braveheart*, and its expression of "traditional values". Hanging, drawing and quartering features

prominently in the film. When Buchanan's team went one stage further and claimed that Gibson, who is sympathetic to Buchanan's pro-life stance on abortion, had endorsed their candidate, Gibson's team were swift to respond. "He hasn't endorsed anyone," they said, "and he was quite upset to find out that Buchanan's campaign is saying he has."

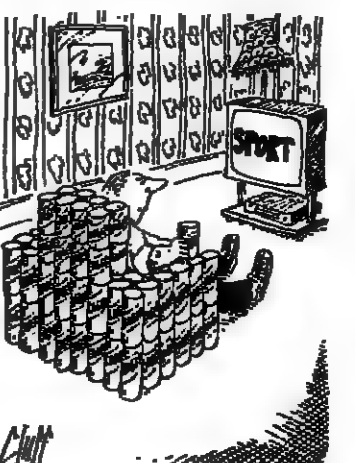
● TAKING his unique brand of diplomacy to Madrid on Thursday was Douglas Hogg, our unfairly maligned Agriculture Minister. In a press conference at the British Embassy, he put in another of his terrifically strong, silent performances. For half an hour, he scowled and frowned while Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, dealt with an extremely aggressive pack of Spanish journalists. Only at the very end did Hogg spring to life when asked a direct question. Instantly, he was off on a lengthy discourse on mammalian proteins. When he did finish, the asker of the question looked worsted and headed for the door muttering about needing a treble Fandango brandy.

### Horse play

MORE temperamental horse problems are afflicting the Royal Opera

House in Covent Garden. Viewers of the BBC series, *The House*, earlier this year will remember a scene in which two shire horses crashed through the stage during Janacek's *Kara Kubanova*.

Now the star horse of the Opera House's production of Verdi's *Don Carlos*, which opens on Tuesday, has been fired. The white mare was due to sweep off stage the heroine Elisabeth, played by Karita Mattila, at the end of Act One. Sadly, she failed to adapt to the powerful stage lights and grew surly. "She wouldn't do what she was told," says their spokesman, Keith Cooper. The horse which took the role



in the original production in Paris will return as a replacement.

### Read my lips

BAD omens for the next four years of John Birt's reign at the BBC as his announcement to staff yesterday of his extended tenure was plagued by technical glitches. Doing his best Big Brother, Birt appeared on the closed circuit televisions around the BBC HQ giving a pre-recorded interview to a sweaty-looking Robin Reynolds, editor of the in-house rag, *Ariel*. Birt needed some Paxmanesque discipline, as he ummed and aahed his way through the interview. Worse was to follow.

As Birt expounded on his theories of programme quality, his words began to fall out of synch with his lip movements. The interview ended up looking like a poorly dubbed German management video.

### High noon

HOLSTERS lie forlornly on the green room floors at Sadler's Wells where the Wild West musical *Calamity Jane* is in deep trouble. On Wednesday night the show's stars, Gemma Craven and Stephen McGann, failed to leap whooping on stage as usual and their under-



Gemma Craven: calamity

studies had to step in. It was the same story on Thursday night. The actors were apparently locked in a disagreement over money, or rather the lack of it.

Craven's people were not in a yee-hah sort of mood yesterday, but Ian Albery, chief executive of Sadler's Wells, said: "They had some difficulties out on the road when one of the theatres they were playing went into liquidation. It's all very finely balanced. It's very difficult." He hopes to have his stars back soon.

P.H.S





## CAMBODIA'S MASS KILLER

Some human monsters are best taken alive

Pol Pot, "brother number one" of the murderous Khmer Rouge which set out in 1975 to return Cambodia to "year zero", has been reported dead several times before, generally at times convenient to himself and his evil cause. The death of this jungle monster will be believed only when his body is produced and incontrovertibly identified. If he has feigned death, it will be to buy more time as a fugitive from justice. He has no need of political power to inspire terror in the people he persecuted with such deliberate cruelty. He is the kind who may even live on after secret burial as the man who could yet return.

The timing of this latest report of his death coincides, probably not by coincidence, with the final stages of a detailed investigation by the international Cambodian Genocide Programme, jointly funded by the US and Cambodian Governments. The mill of international justice has ground with offensive slowness in pursuit of what has long been recognised as genocide in the sense of the 1948 UN Convention. But its wheels are finally turning.

Since the team began work early last year, it has located thousands of mass graves, interviewed witnesses who are only now finding the courage to tell their stories and discovered that the Khmer Rouge was almost as meticulous as the Nazis in keeping detailed records of massacres, often matched by photographs. It now believes that the secretive Organisation on High led by Pol Pot starved to death or butchered by the most brutal methods at least two million Cambodians, double previous Western estimates. International arrest warrants are due to be issued next year for trials before a special legal tribunal.

That it should have taken so long is one of the grimmest, as well as one of the most politically contorted, chapters of the Cold War. It is 17 years since Vietnamese forces drove the Pol Pot regime out of Phnom Penh, in a liberation which the West insisted on calling an invasion. It is almost as long since the Vietnamese-backed Government pub-

lished a detailed indictment, coupled with photographs of mass graves and piles of skulls, to support its claim of three million dead. The children of Britain understood what that meant. The *Blue Peter* programme put out an appeal for £100,000 for the children who had survived, and raised around £3 million in a matter of weeks. Their elders in the House of Commons deplored the Pol Pot's "barbarism" — but within a year, the British Government joined the vote at the United Nations that recognised a coalition, of which the Khmer Rouge was part, as the legal representative of "Democratic Kampuchea". For years, the West denied even humanitarian aid to the survivors. The final peace settlement held the door open to the Khmer Rouge which duly kicked the door in.

The remnant of its once-strong guerrilla force is still capable of keeping alive a doctrine of terror which emptied Cambodia's cities, all but wiped out its intellectuals and turned its fields into a vast concentration camp. The intellectual authors of this sustained atrocity, including Pol Pot's close associates Ieng Sary and the "one-legged butcher" Ta Mok, are still at large on the Cambodian-Thai border.

King Norodom Sihanouk has insisted that it is "absolutely necessary" that these men be tried and convicted before they die. The King's personal history, as both victim and one-time political partner of the Khmer Rouge, tells him why this is so important. No one who has encountered Pol Pot has failed to be struck by his soft smile, mild manner and the awed respect this "teacher" of a monstrous ideology arouses in his followers. He appears, says the King, as "a very gentle person, a lamb". Such men are dangerous even, perhaps especially, in hiding. From the grave, Pol Pot's smile will haunt Cambodia still. In court, his mystique might at last be dispelled — because then there could be no second coming. There are monsters who are best taken alive.

## QUALITY AND EQUALITY

Pupils must be allowed to progress at their own pace

Labour has been making the running in education in recent weeks. Gillian Shephard has been under fire from the Right and Labour has used the opportunity to make an audacious raid on ground once firmly Conservative. First David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, backed a return to traditional teaching methods in primary schools. Now Tony Blair has called for an end to mixed ability teaching in secondary schools. "Equality," he said in a speech yesterday, "must not become the enemy of quality."

For far too long, it has. Trying to teach the same subject to a whole class of academically quite disparate pupils is as crazy as pitting dachshunds against labradors and greyhounds on a racetrack. In some ways it is worse, for the cleverest children do not even win. They might gain the best examination results, but the chances are that they will not have achieved their full potential. They are likely to be bored and impatient at school, while the least academic will struggle to keep up.

There are some respectable social and economic arguments for comprehensives. But the educational arguments for some form of grading by ability are more compelling. Given that attachment to the comprehensive ideal is still so strong in Labour ranks, Mr Blair must tread warily. His speech yesterday was an attempt to smuggle selection into a system he could present to his party as still recognisably comprehensive.

Mr Blair believes that selection within a school, allowing pupils to find their own level in different subjects, will provide the flexibility that the old division between grammar schools and secondary moderns could not. Indeed, he wants to differentiate even within sets so that each child moves at the appropriate pace. "We can begin to talk about class sizes of one," he claims; "each

child with their own learning programme." As an ideal, this is exemplary: all too many talented children are held back at school by the need for whole classes to move at the same speed. But can it be achieved?

Initially it needs a transformation in teachers' expectations. Some teachers delight in spotting talent where it might be least expected to flourish. Others are too easily tempted to write off the chances of socially deprived children and to feel hostile to intelligent, middle-class pupils. With such attitudes, neither will be pushed to reach their full potential.

That is why there are attractions in allowing schools to select pupils before entry, as the Conservatives want. It would make it easier to bring together manageable classes of similar ability. The Government does not propose a return to the system that prevailed before the abolition of the 11-plus. Instead it wants to encourage diversity. Selection by school is a practice accepted by European social democrats but difficult for Mr Blair to sell to a party still so committed to the comprehensive dream.

Instead of educating his party out of that Sixties folly, Mr Blair has wisely joined battle with Conservatives who have been attacking another of that decade's mistakes — the progressive orthodoxy that prevails in teacher training colleges. Much has to be done to change teachers' view of themselves from social engineers to professional pedagogues. Better standards will be achieved not through dogma but through disseminating best practice. Just as doctors keep their skills up to date with the latest advances in medicine, so teachers should be prepared (and trained) to use the educational methods that have been shown to work best. But this requires one big change: all teachers will first have to start seeing themselves and conducting themselves not as trade unionists or ideologues, but as professionals.

## THE HUSBAND'S FLUTTER

Alex Greaves becomes the first woman in the Derby

History is made today at Epsom. The world's greatest flat race will be graced by a woman jockey, Alex Greaves, for the first time in its 217-year history. Although her mount, Portuguese Lil, is a 500-1 shot, no Pegasus let alone a Shergar, that does not alter the significance of the event.

As she reveals in our pages today, Britain's premier female professional came to the saddle only after her course on institutional management ended with no job. This might remind some of the *Monty Python* sketch about the accountant who wanted to become a lion-tamer but it has worked well for her. Even if her record of 170 wins in a seven-year career is unlikely to be extended at Epsom, we wish her the best of British.

Her efforts have not been greeted with complete enthusiasm within the racing community. This is a very male and pretty traditional bunch, not a group at the cutting edge of gender equality. There has been a malicious moaning that her marriage to a trainer, David Nicholls, explains much about her progress. There have been comparisons, not always flattering, between Ms Greaves and Emily Davidson, the suffragette who threw herself in front of the King's horse in the race of 1913. It has been

argued that women lack the physical strength to compete in flat races, especially when jockeys flog the horse with whip over the last 200 yards. This cynicism was neatly summarised yesterday by a leading former jockey, Geoff Lewis, who described her prospects today as "just a bit of a laugh".

Such comments strike us as unfounded as well as ungracious. Women have successfully joined the National Hunt circuit both as riders and trainers despite physical demands that, while different, are comparable to those of the Derby. There are new regulations limiting the use, many would suggest abuse, of the whip. These render much muscle-bound argument moot. In all other affairs equestrian, Alex Greaves will prove to be a trail-blazer, not a curiosity.

Change can be both good and bad. The switch of the Derby to a Saturday was a departure from tradition that has apparently left the Queen and many other racing enthusiasts somewhat unenthused. The arrival of a woman in the contest is one innovation that can be wholeheartedly welcomed. Just as Lester Piggott was described as the housewife's fancy, Alex Greaves should be the husband's flutter.

## Judgment on the European Court

From Lord Tebbit, CH

Sir, It is a shame to see so many distinguished lawyers misdirecting and muddling themselves about the European Court of Justice and the European Union (letter, June 5).

That we need a court to adjudicate on disputes, involving the laws governing the Single Market, and that it should have powers to award compensation to those disadvantaged by government, corporation or individuals who break those laws, is obvious and non-contentious.

Sadly that is not all with which the ECJ concerns itself. The treatment of pregnant servicewomen, or the rights of suspected terrorists to free movement within the United Kingdom, are nothing to do with the Single Market. The ECJ exercises jurisdiction in such matters because the European Union is a quasi-state with its own citizens and the ECJ is a quasi-Supreme Court.

The extent to which this Kingdom has been reduced to the status of a satrapy is underlined by your correspondents' reference to the ECJ as "the only institution with the power to protect individuals". So much for Parliament.

According to your correspondents that body, the only national body democratically responsible to the people of this Kingdom, has no power to protect those whom it represents. And so much for a thousand years of history: the power to protect the subjects of the Queen is to be entrusted to an unelected group of mostly foreign lawyers.

Your correspondents' letter is regrettable for its implicit claim that judges, not parliament, are sovereign. It is all the more regrettable that in the context of our membership of the European Union they are probably correct.

Yours faithfully,  
TEBBIT.  
House of Lords.  
June 6.

From Mr Bernard Jenkin, MP for Colchester North (Conservative) and others

Sir, Lord Mackenzie-Stuart et al claim that the Home Secretary cannot both recognise the need for a European Court of Justice (ECJ) and criticise its judgments.

The EU needs a court to resolve disputes between the contracting parties to the treaties, but it is not necessary to have what the court itself invented: "a new legal order... the subjects of which comprise not only the Member States but also their nationals" (Van Gend en Loos judgment, 1963). In 1992 it confirmed that its role is to interpret the law "in ever wider fields" in such a way as best "to make concrete progress towards European unity".

This is what leads academic commentators to state that "the Court has consciously acted not only as the 'Constitutional Court' of the Community but also as an architect of European integration" — D. Lasok and J. W. Bridge, *Law and Institutions of the European Union* (Butterworths, 1994). This is what makes the ECJ political in character.

As Lasok and Bridge also point out, the ECJ's doctrine of direct applicability and direct effect of community law "unmistakably points to a federal character (of Community law), because in a federal system federal law bears directly upon the citizens of the component states". It is hardly therefore surprising that a UK Government expressly opposed to the development of a "federal" Europe has found the interference of the ECJ increasingly exasperating.

The North American Free Trade Agreement and, indeed, the GATT agreements are rules-based free markets: but they do not create private rights and obligations between individuals and institutions with a penetrative legal order that claims supremacy over member states' domestic law. We need a court to direct the French to open Orly Airport to more airlines or to fine Italy for defrauding milk quotas; but it is not necessary to impose the working time directive, to force the UK Government to pay compensation to Spanish fishing boat owners, or to make large awards to pregnant ex-servicewomen in order to avoid "the break-up of the single market" and "the balkanisation of Western Europe". This is hysterical language in defence of the indefensible.

Yours etc.  
BERNARD JENKIN,  
JONATHAN AITKEN,  
IAIN DUNCAN SMITH,  
NIGEL EVANS,  
DAVID FABER,  
DAVID HOWELL,  
IVAN LAWRENCE,  
JOHN WHITTINGDALE.  
House of Commons.  
June 6.

From Dr Tom Carnwath  
Sir, I read in today's obituary of Richard Robinson that his literary style "was modelled on that of Aristotle, but had some resemblance also to that of Lord Anker".

Is this irony or genuine appreciation? Yours sincerely,  
TOM CARNWATH,  
Grafton House, Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire.  
June 5.

From the Editor of Vogue  
Sir, Following your leading article (June 1) condemning Vogue's use of thin models, I was amused to see three pictures of Trish Goff (one of the models in question) on your fashion page (June 5). I think they prove that she isn't so bad after all.

Yours faithfully,  
ALEXANDRA SHULMAN,  
Editor, Vogue,  
Vogue House, Hanover Square, W1.  
June 5.

## Positive ways to live with deafness

From the Honorary Treasurer of the Royal Association in Aid of Deaf People

Sir, One of the deaf people whom you quote in your account of Lord Ashley of Stoke's campaign to give small children hearing implants (reports and leading article, June 5) states that "Medically there is nothing wrong with deaf people. The only difference is that we have no hearing and use sign language."

This statement may be partly true, but it ignores two fundamental problems of deafness. In a predominantly hearing world, the communication gap must be bridged by skilled interpreting services. Sign-language specialists are required to help to deal with many of the vexatious transactions to which we are all subjected, with dentists, solicitors, local authorities and so on.

Beyond that, there are some special problems for which advice and help are needed from experts who fully understand the frustrations and barriers of deafness, as well as the laudable independence of the deaf culture. Among these are isolation, unhappiness, even consequent mental illness. In particular, the difficulties of family relationships and communication with deaf or hearing children must be addressed.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN LAZARUS,  
Honorary Treasurer,  
The Royal Association in Aid of Deaf People,  
27 Old Oak Road, W3.  
June 5.

From the Chief Executive of the National Deaf Children's Society

Sir, Cochlear implants are only one technique for developing awareness of sound in some deaf children and adults. They are not suitable for all deaf children, nor do they restore hearing as it is understood by hearing people. Recent research published by the MRC Institute of Hearing Research clearly indicates that they merely allow children who were either born deaf, or who lost their hearing before acquiring spoken language, to develop auditory and speech-perceptual skills.

The statement in your leading article that "many parents of deaf children are refusing these implants" fails to address the complexity of the decision-making process behind such action. Many hearing parents may ultimately reject the procedure only after lengthy assessments as to their child's suitability and much consideration of the potential for improving their quality of life. Deaf parents of deaf children often reject implants for very different ethical and moral reasons.

## V&A extension

From the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects

Sir, Mr Charles Morris states (letter, June 4; see also letters, May 24) that Daniel Libeskind's plans for an extension to the V&A building represent disorder which "is never comfortable to live with". He is quick to dismiss a design which is only a concept at this stage and has yet to be developed into a final proposal.

The more detailed conceptual plans that have not been widely published show it has the potential to become an exciting addition to London's existing varied architecture. We should give the design time to develop and then come to an objective judgment.

Order often appears out of what might seem to some initially to be chaos.

Yours faithfully,  
OWEN LUDER,  
President,  
Royal Institute of British Architects,  
66 Portland Place, W1.  
June 5.

From Mr Martin Pawley

Sir, It seems to me that the aspect of the Libeskind project that ought to

## Nato expansion

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm, RN (ret'd)

Sir, The Director of the Atlantic Council writes (letter, June 4) that the council "does not believe that Nato's expansion [eastwards] threatens Russia."

What is perhaps more important to the peace and stability of Europe is whether Russia believes that it threatens Russia.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER KIMM,  
69 New Brighton Road,  
Emsworth, Hampshire.  
June 4.

## Thin models

From the Editor of Vogue

Sir, Following your leading article (June 1) condemning Vogue's use of thin models, I was amused to see three pictures of Trish Goff (one of the models in question) on your fashion page (June 5). I think they prove that she isn't so bad after all.

Yours faithfully,  
ALEXANDRA SHULMAN,  
Editor, Vogue,  
Vogue House, Hanover Square, W1.  
June 5.

Weekend Money letters, page 37

The benefits to a child who is born profoundly deaf cannot be compared to those for an adult who has acquired language skills and loses their hearing in later life, as experienced by Lord Ashley of Stoke. Cochlear implants do not offer instant access to speech and sound for all implanted deaf children.

Figures released by the Nottingham Paediatric Cochlear Implant Programme (August 1993) show that the ability of implanted young children to discriminate some speech and environmental sounds varies enormously between individuals and over varying periods of time from the initial tuning.

Yours faithfully,  
SUSAN DANIELS,  
Chief Executive,  
The National Deaf Children's Society,  
15 Dufferin Street, EC1.  
June 5.

From Mr John Wheeler

Sir, I write as a deaf person inspired to apply for a cochlear implant by Lord Ashley's account on television two years ago of the advantages he gained from having one. Whether I will be assessed as able to benefit from an implant after sixty years of deafness still remains to be determined.

A point I never fail to make when talking about my deafness is that I had the prime good fortune of nine formative years of hearing. If I ever feel proud, as some deaf people do about their deafness, it is in the fact that, in spite of mine, I believe I face life with a hearing person's attitude.

Like Lord Ashley, I view deafness as a handicap to be overcome to the best of my ability in a hearing world, never as a disability to be satisfied with and preserved.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WHEELER,  
Silversage,  
15a Albany Road,  
Seaford, East Sussex.

From Mrs E. Faure Walker

Sir, Three days ago, my cochlear implant was switched on at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. I am now discovering lost sounds. For the first time for 20 years I can hear the birds singing. The world has come alive.

With Lord Ashley, I strongly believe that whenever possible every deaf child should have the chance of joining the hearing world.

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH FAURE WALKER,  
Mill House, Stoke Doyle,  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.  
June 5.

arouse most concern is not the tiresome 1900-style debate about its radical aesthetics. Far more useful would be a 2000-style debate about its embodied energy cost, its thermal performance, its emission controls and its many other responses to the crucial environmental issues of our time.

Perhaps the visionary Mr Libeskind will get round to dealing with these in due course.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN PAWLEY,  
The Old Rectory,  
Somerton, Oxfordshire.  
June 5.

From Mr Sergei Kadleigh

Sir, Lord Armstrong, chairman of the V&A Board of Trustees, states (article, June 4) that "The choice of architect for the new building was made unanimously by the trustees, on a unanimous recommendation by a committee." This brings to mind a well-known adage which goes something like this: "A camel is a horse designed by a committee."

Yours faithfully,  
SERGEI KADLEIGH,  
Flat B, 12 Miles Road,  
Clifton, Bristol, Avon.  
June 4.

## Christ's divinity

From Dr Emil Shehadeh

Sir, In his article, "To reject the Virgin's unique status is to deny her Son's divinity" (Credo, June 1), Professor John Haldane implies, wrongly in my view, that Christ obtains His deity by association with His mother.

Even if we are to concede that the declarations of the Council of Ephesus were co-ordinated with Scripture, which is not the case, Christ's divinity comes from His unity with God, as we read in the Gospel of John: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." God is from everlasting to everlasting; Mary is not.

Christ's divinity comes from the fact that He is God. God chose to become incarnate and chose Mary to express His humanity. But Mary has added nothing to the deity of God or Christ. If she is unique it is by virtue of the deity of her son.

Yours faithfully,  
E. SHEHADEH (President,  
Gospel: Group of Scriptural,  
Protestant Evangelical Labourers),  
85 Brixey Road,  
Poole, Dorset.  
June 5.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

## Looking for logic in supermarkets

From Mr Tom Roberts

Sir, Sadly I can assure General Sir Ian Gourlay (letter, June 4) that his headache of looking for aspirins in his local supermarket is not unique.

Under the guise of accommodating new lines, supermarkets seem to be operating a policy of providing minimum information while regularly changing the location of goods. The purpose of this policy appears to be to keep customers circulating the stores for the longest possible time, during which they pick up items in passing which were not on their original shopping list.

Why toy with frequent-shopper discounts and credit cards when supermarkets could win the hearts of their customers by providing some sort of computerised location finder, as Sir Ian recommends? A simple card attached to each trolley would suffice.

Yours sincerely,  
TOM ROBERTS,  
37 Broadrick Road, SW17.  
June 4.

From Mr L. H. Jole

Sir, I was astonished to read General Gourlay's letter calling for a "key-in computer display... giving instant guidance as to the current location of the goods on offer" in supermarkets. I can think of nothing more certain to cause chaos, confusion and delay.

Yours faithfully,  
LESLIE HUGH JOLE,  
Vulcan House,  
Holly Tree Lane, Cuddington,  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.  
June 5.

From Mr Tony Cornwell

Sir, I have great sympathy with General Sir Ian Gourlay. After my local store completely threw me by moving orange juice from the drinks section where it had been for many moons to "breakfast cereals", I decided that a more scientific approach was necessary.

I therefore entered our weekly shopping list into the word-processor, putting all items in their correct order as displayed in the store, beginning with "fruit and veg" and ending with "wines and spirits". This not only considerably speeds up the job but also ensures that nothing is missed.

When, as frequently happens, the manager changes things around I have only to adjust the running order on the computer and print out a revised edition for the next visit.

Yours etc.  
A. B. CORNWELL,  
55 High Street,  
Barton, Cambridge.  
June 4.

From Mrs Judy Holcroft

Sir, A recent trip to my local supermarket caught me scratching my head. I wanted to buy some ready-made prawn cocktail. I searched the seafood section. I frisked the fish fridge.

"Oh no, it's not in there any more," said the assistant as if I should have known. "It's over there in the cold meat cabinet."

Yours faithfully,  
JUDY HOLCROFT,  
8 Cranebrook Close,  
Coppenshall, Crewe, Cheshire.  
June 5.

From Dr John Burscough

Sir, Any new parent could have told General Sir Ian Gourlay that next to the nappies is the ideal place to keep the aspirin.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BURSCOUGH,  
Woodland View, Melton Road,  
Wrawby, Brigg, Lincolnshire.  
June 4.

## Baling out

From Air Vice-Marshal John Price

Sir, Mr Gordon Fenwick (letter, June 4) is quite right about different wars requiring different "escape money" to be issued to aircrew.

Flying Meteors with 77 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force in Korea, I was supplied with packets of penicillin with which to aid escape. The packets were stamped with a "use-by date" long passed; fortunately I was never required to test the English reading skills of North Korean villagers.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN PRICE,  
2 Palace Yard, Hereford.  
June 4.

## Coded message

From Mr L. C. Smith

Sir, There is indeed a name beginning with E concealed within the Inspector Morse theme (report, June 5) and one that the touchy Morse might well wish to keep quiet about, since it features in a piece of childish doggerel.


I wouldn't want to spoil the fun by revealing it. On the other hand, if representatives of the press were to descend on my home, whisk me off to a secret hotel, ply me with food and drink and offer me tempting sums of money...

Yours sincerely,  
L. C. SMITH,  
7 Chalfont Walk,  
Pinner, Middlesex.  
June 6.





**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**



an interval in *La Bohème*

## lacked houses

...een coming to Castleward ever  
 ...nce the opera started in 1985, and  
 ...has improved each year. James Fitzgerald, the Belfast News  
 ...art critic, described Castleward  
 ...ining example of the way the arts  
 ...ded in Northern Ireland despite  
 ...ubbles. "Castleward symbolises  
 ...ent spirit in Northern Ireland," h  
 ...It shows how we have built up  
 ...ballet and the arts in the midst o

...ward staged its first opera in  
 ...a modest budget of £10,000 with  
 ...on of promoting Irish singers  
 ...ans and designers. The opera

now has an annual budget of £100,000, has become such a success that it is now hard to attract more established singers.

The *Book of Common Prayer* was adopted by the Church of England in 1549.

Britain took a 99-year lease on the New Territories, Hong Kong, from China, 1898.

Donald Duck made his screen debut in *The Wise Little Hen*, 1934.

The House of Commons was broadcast live by radio for the first time, 1975.

[illegible][illegible]

**Mr R.W. Adam**  
and **Miss N.W. Grant**  
The engagement is announced between Russell, only son of Mr Douglas Adam, of Stirling, and Mrs Krystyna Adam, of Edinburgh, and Nicola, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas

**Mr R.A. Hacker**  
and **Miss K.A. Agafonoff**  
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr and Mrs M. Hacker, of Richmond, Surrey, and Katherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Agafonoff, of Canberra, Australia.

Mr J. Macmillan  
and Miss G. Paget  
The engagement is announced between Julian, only son of Mrs Vonda Macmillan Beck and the late Major John Macmillan, and stepson of Mr David Beck, of the family of the late Mrs J. A. B. daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Paget, of Swindon, Wiltshire.

Mr G.M. Rogers  
and Dr C. Mowbray  
The engagement is announced between Gordon, son of John and Olive Rogers, and Gilly, elder daughter of John and Shirley Mowbray.

## Marriage

Mr R. Zietz  
and Mrs P. Cardiano  
The marriage took place quietly in London, on Saturday, June 1, 1990, by the Rev. Canon Zietz and Mrs Patricia Cardiano.

## Baron Bingham of Cornhill

The life barony conferred upon Sir Thomas Henry Bingham has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Bingham of Cornhill.

By NICHOLAS WATT      a corrugated iron roof. The stage is so      have been coming to Castleward every

small that the singers have to enter from the back and the stage manager monitors the performance on a television screen from a cubbyhole. Despite the cramped surroundings, Castleward is building a strong reputation on the opera circuit. Fiona O'Neill sang powerfully as Mimì and Tom Rice's designs cleverly recreated scenes from *fin de siècle* Paris on the small stage.

After the second act there was a 75-minute break for dinner. Most opted for the comfort of a full-course dinner in a marquee, but a hardy few braved the chill of an Ulster summer evening to eat picnics in the estate's sunken garden.

One group laid out their carefully prepared picnic on a table bedecked with an elaborate candelabra. The party

year since the opera started in 1985, and said it has improved each year.

Charles Fitzgerald, the Belfast *News-Letter*'s critic, described Castleward as a shining example of the way the arts succeeded in Northern Ireland despite the Troubles. "Castleward symbolises a resurgent spirit in Northern Ireland," he said. "It shows how we have built up opera, ballet and the arts in the midst of a war."

Castleward staged its first opera in 1985 on a modest budget of £10,000 with the aim of promoting Irish singers, musicians and designers. The opera, which now has an annual budget of £260,000, has become such a success that Castleward now has to look further afield to attract more established singers.

## Anniversaries

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>TOMORROW</b>
BIRTHS: Giovanni Cassini, astronomer, Perinaldo, France, 1625; John	BIRTHS: Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia 1682-1725. Moscow, 1672

[illegible]

### Memorial service

**Mr Andrzej Olszowski**  
A memorial service for Mr Andrzej

**Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge**

Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge held a Quatercentenary Dinner at the Durbar Court, in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office on Wednesday, 5 June. Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, was the Guest of Honour. Other guests included:

- Mr Geoffrey James, QC, MP, *Former*
- Rudolph Manners, Chairman of the Nobel Prize Committee
- Mr Sir Edmund Phelps, QC, KBE, CMO, and Mr Anthony Percival (Group Finance Director of Kingsbridge plc, the Dunelm retail chain)

Mr Woolf presented a cheque for £10,000 for the College, and gave a lecture and conference, later in the College.

**The Old Carthusian Club**  
Old Carthusian Day will be held at Charterhouse on Saturday, June 29. The AGM will take place in Hall at 3.30pm. The Clubroom will be open.

**Worship Service (Beer), The**      **corpus (Bisler), Rev A Jennings: 6:30 E, Howells**      **Communion: Moody Ch**

[illegible][illegible]

\_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

**THANKSGIVING SERVICES**

**CUDDEON** - A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Charles Cuddeon will be held in the Hampden Hall, Emmanuel School, Battersea Rise, S.W.15, at 10.15 AM on Thursday 27th June at 6pm. There will be a reception after the service.

**BIRTHDAYS**

**PHILIPPE JANETTE**, 5th June 1956.  
Commemoration on French radio, 11.45.00 hrs. birthday, with song, flowers, *Amour & Parfum*.

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pages and are accepted subject to  
revision.

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## OBITUARIES

## GLYN WORSNIP

Glyn Worsnip, television presenter and actor, died from an infection after a long illness on June 6 aged 57. He was born on September 3, 1938.

GLYN WORSNIP spent five years as the assistant to Esther Rantzen in *That's Life*. This was the early 1970s, when the programme was new and the format delightfully fresh. The same misshapen carrots sent in by readers, the same talented pets, and even the same common resurfaced again and again over the years. They turned the programme into a national institution. Worsnip was part of a team of two young men who assisted Esther Rantzen. Kieran Prendiville was a puppyish young northern reporter. Worsnip his more urbane foil. His job was to be the straight man, the "clown with a straight face", as he described himself. "If there was scummy water, I would be pushed in it. If there were rotten eggs, they would be broken over my head."

Worsnip went on to more television work after *That's Life*. But then, in the mid-1980s, he became ill. Two years later, he announced publicly what many in the business already knew, that he was suffering from a rare brain disease, cerebellar ataxia. The courage with which he approached his long, final illness was a tribute to his uncrushable good humour.

Glyn Michael John Worsnip was the son of an architect. He was educated locally at Highnam near Gloucester, then at Monmouth School. He did his National Service as an officer in the RAF in photographic intelligence, and then read English at St John's College, Oxford, where he was a leading light in OUDS. He remained in acting, and spent the next 15 years in repertory theatre. The high point of his acting career was when he appeared as Mr Sowerberry in *Oliver!* with Ron Moody in the West End.

It was an up-and-down sort of existence, and Worsnip was in a down patch — making ends meet as a clerk and typist for £20 a week — when auditions for a new show, *That's Life*, were announced in 1973. Worsnip knew Esther Rantzen from Oxford days, and had already made some humorous reports for the BBC magazine programme *Nationwide*. He put his name forward.

There were around 1,000 applicants, eventually whittled down to eight finalists. Each was given a pilot before a real audience. Worsnip's main competition, he felt, came from a young man called Simon Bates. He thought his worst fears were confirmed when Rantzen called the following day: "Evil news, I'm afraid," Rantzen paused dramatically, and then told him he had the job.

Worsnip was teamed up with



Prendiville, a Fleet Street journalist who had started his career in Oldham. They reacted well on stage together, particularly when acting out the letters of distressed viewers. Worsnip played the straight man, the po-faced voiced of authority, Prendiville the put-upon punter.

The team of Rantzen, Prendiville and Worsnip proved popular with the public, and the programme zoomed to the top of the viewing charts. An enormous postbag was generated, which was sifted through by a small team consisting of the presenters, five researchers and two secretaries.

Their favourite targets were bureaucrats, as Worsnip recalled: "We frequently blew up the gas board, shocked the electricity board and dampened the spirits of the water board." There were also numerous pet stories. Worsnip remembered spending hours with an alligator in a basement flat in Surbiton, where it lived with a retired colonel who described his pet as "perfectly harmless". Some way through filming, the colonel retired to put the animal away, and came back covered with blood. "Excuse me," he boomed stoically, "but I think I'd better nip down to the hospital. The alligator's just bitten a hole in my arm."

Worsnip started receiving his own postbag from appreciative women viewers — although he was happily married, with a wife and young

daughter who lived in the Forest of Dean. Some people thought his name was too funny to be real, made up especially for the show (Prendiville also suffered in this respect).

Worsnip remained with the show for five years. Since 1976 he had been given a regular slot on *Nationwide*, and in 1978 he left *That's Life* for new challenges. There was a home improvement series on *Nationwide* and in 1982 he presented a serious documentary on the heroes of the Falklands War, *The Paras*. He did a fair amount of work for BBC Radio, and was on *Breakfast Time*, when that started in 1983. He was covering the Conservative Party conference in Brighton for *Breakfast Time*, when the IRA bomb exploded in October 1984.

It was in 1988, when Worsnip was employed as chairman of the Radio 2 panel game *Press Gang*, that he decided to break the news about his illness. He had first realised that there was something dreadfully wrong with his balance two years earlier. "On a Tube train one day I suddenly stumbled ungracefully, grasping for support at this lady's ample bosom, pinning her to a seat. But later, mounting an escalator with a heavy briefcase, I toppled backwards. Thirty people, or so, followed like dominoes."

Matters were made worse by his occasionally slurred speech, which some people, unkindly and wrongly, implied was caused by an alcohol

problem. Worsnip kept a diary of his worsening condition, and eventually was diagnosed as suffering from degeneration of the cerebellum. He told colleagues on a need-to-know basis at first, but eventually decided to make his illness public after coming to the painful conviction that he could no longer be saved by the skill or patience of the producer and cameraman. He broadcast his moving account of living with the illness on Radio 4, *A Lone Voice*.

Worsnip continued working for as long as he could. Speech therapy taught him new tricks of pronunciation, and to the untrained ear his consonants could sound as crisp as ever. No longer able to write with his hand, he used a small lap-top word processor to write his story, *Up the Down Escalator*, published in 1990. Illness gave him compassion and insight into others' problems. He spent hours patiently answering letters from other sufferers, and formed a support group for them.

But live performance became, for the first time in his life, frightening, although he continued to work at what he could. He wrote occasional pieces and a column for the *Manchester Evening News*.

Glyn Worsnip married his wife, Jo, in 1965. The marriage recently ended in divorce, and he is survived by their daughter and by his mother and father.

## JEAN SINCLAIR

Jean Sinclair, founder of the Black Sash movement, died in Johannesburg on June 6 aged 87. She was born in Germiston, near Johannesburg, on July 2 1908.



JEAN SINCLAIR was driving home to Johannesburg from Cape Town with a car full of children she was trying hard to keep amused when she heard a radio news bulletin that was to change her life and project her into the front line of anti-apartheid politics in South Africa. It was 1955 and the news bulletin reported that the National Party, seven years in power, was to rig the Senate, the upper house of the South African Parliament, to deprive mixed-race Coloureds of their votes.

A few days later Sinclair and a small group of upper-class, middle-aged white women met for tea in Johannesburg's well-to-do northern suburbs and decided to form the Women's Defence of the Constitution League. They drove to Pretoria and, with the support of many others from all over the country, stood silently along the approaches to the Union Buildings, the Government's administrative headquarters, wearing large black sashes in mourning for the rape of the Constitution.

Although the demonstration had no practical effect and the vote-stripping legislation was bulldozed through, any hopes the Government might have had that the ladies would quickly become bored and return to their tea parties and bridge tables was short-lived. Jean Sinclair's feelings of outrage grew as increasingly repressive apartheid legislation was enacted. The women of the Black Sash movement, as it shortly became known, began to be seen all over the country.

The Government loathed and ridiculed them, suggesting through a leading Afrikaans-language press and some not so sympathetic English-language newspapers, that these well-groomed ladies would be far better employed looking after their children and ensuring that their husbands' meals were served on

time. But at the same time ministers went to extraordinary lengths to try to avoid them. They used back entrances of public buildings, drove the wrong way along one-way streets and in some cases were even spotted jumping over fences to bypass the demonstrators.

Jean Sinclair was hauled into police stations for rigorous interrogation on many occasions but she was never charged with an offence. Black Sash protests were always kept within the law.

The Sharpeville massacre in May 1960, when police opened fire on African pass law protesters, confronted the movement with its most serious crisis. In the aftermath of the massacre and a disastrous flight of currency from South Africa, the Government imposed a nationwide state of emergency and outlawed the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress.

It was the beginning of the armed struggle and the most repressive period of apartheid rule. As the crackdown on all forms of dissent intensified, membership of the Black Sash declined and in 1961 Jean Sinclair took over the presidency, a position she was to

hold for 14 years until she retired at the age of 76.

It was her singular achievement that during her presidency the movement not only survived but expanded. Although the silent demonstrations continued, its focus became the pass laws which required blacks to carry at all times the despised "dompas", indicating whether they were allowed to be in any particular white area. Failure to produce it on demand meant instant arrest, imprisonment and, in the case of millions, forced removal to a distant, impoverished bantustan.

The Black Sash set up a network of advice bureaux across the country staffed by volunteers who helped and gave advice to thousands of people seeking basic human rights despite the labyrinth of apartheid laws.

The Black Sash closed its membership organisation shortly before its 40th anniversary last year. But it continues to run its advice bureaux with professional staff and has also established a special unit that keeps a close watch on legislation planned and enacted by the new Government.

Jean Sinclair is survived by three sons and two daughters.

## HENRY JOHNS

Henry Johns, real tennis player, died on May 27 aged 85. He was born on July 21, 1910.



AN outstanding real tennis player, Henry Johns made a major contribution to one of the world's most historic sports. For more than 20 years he was head real tennis professional at Lord's. As well as winning several major championships, he was a dedicated coach, responsible for training many of today's leading players.

Harry David Johns — always known in real tennis circles as Henry — was brought up in Fulham where his father, who came originally from Pontypool, had moved after the First World War. When he was young, Henry found a job at the Queen's Club as a lawn tennis ball-boy. But it was watching players on the real tennis court at Queen's that first instilled in him an interest in the game that he was to make his profession.

In 1925 he moved to Prince's Club in Knightsbridge as a junior professional. It was there that he acquired his skill at real tennis. In 1924 he moved to the Cavalier court at

Fairlawne in Kent and two years later became assistant professional to Jack Groom at Lord's.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 he enlisted in the Army, rising to the rank of sergeant in the Essex Regiment, mostly on anti-aircraft duties. By the time the war was over, the game of real tennis had fallen into a parlous state. Many courts had fallen into disrepair and there was a great shortage of balls. Johns set about improving the situation.

He established a small team of ball-makers at Lord's, consisting of George Beton, the changing room attendant, and George Ferguson, a young professional, who built the cores: Henry Johns himself, completed the balls to their correct size and weight; and Mrs Johns and Mrs Beton covered them. This team saved the game in the United States by delivering an order for 3,000 balls that took them five years to complete.

When Jack Groom died in 1954 Henry was his natural successor as head professional and held that post with outstanding success until he retired in 1975. On his retirement the MCC conferred honorary membership of the

club on him — only the third time that a member of staff had been so honoured.

As a player he was one of the leading professionals of his day and in the words of his contemporary, Jim Dear, he was "champion of the world at Lord's". Certainly he twice beat the world champion, Pierre Etcheberry, in exhibition matches at Lord's.

Undoubtedly he was one of the most elegant stroke-makers in the game. He won the Taylor Cup on several occasions and only narrowly lost to Ronald Hughes in the Open Championship of 1952. He was recognised as the outstanding marker of his day and marked many championship matches.

Perhaps his greatest contribution to the game was as coach and trainer. He taught many of today's professionals: among them David Cull, his successor at Lord's, David Johnson at Queen's, Brian Church at Cambridge, Peter Dawes at Seacourt and Derek Barrett at Manchester.

After his retirement, Johns continued to work part-time for two days a week at both Lord's and Queen's. He only gave up some 18 months ago for reasons of health. But quite apart from his achievements his kindness and courtesy both on and off the court. He was not only a great professional, but also a great gentleman.

He is survived by his wife Mona, and by two sons and two daughters.

## JIMMY ROWLES

Jimmy Rowles, jazz pianist and composer, died in Los Angeles on May 28 aged 77. He was born in Spokane, Washington, on August 19, 1918.



A CAREER which included spells in the bands of Woody Herman, Benny Goodman and Bob Crosby would in itself have marked out Jimmy Rowles as a jazz pianist of note. All that, however, ignores his achievement in becoming one of the most sought-after accompanists in jazz history and his equally striking accomplishments as a composer. Rowles was a preferred accompanist for both Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald, and his composition *The Peacocks* has become one of the great jazz standards, immortalised in a definitive recording by Stan Getz and also on the soundtrack of the film *Round Midnight*.

Rowles was born James George Hunter, but adopted his stepfather's surname. He was initially a self-taught pianist, but he acquired a sound technique and the beginnings of his encyclopaedic recall of hundreds of popular songs when still a student at the University of Washington in Seattle. When he moved to Los Angeles in 1940, he worked in the dance bands of Garwood Vam and Moussey Marsalino before being snapped up to work with several major jazz musicians including Lester Young, Ben Webster and Slim Gaillard. He first worked with Billie Holiday in Lester Young's

band in May 1942. Her initial reluctance at including a white sideman in her group was overcome by Lester Young's reassurances that "this cat can blow". The same year he joined Benny Goodman, before replacing Tommy Linehan in Woody Herman's band, until Rowles was drafted in June 1943. He was to continue his association with Holiday, Goodman and Herman after leaving the Forces and in the late 1940s added the orchestras of Tommy Dorsey and Les Brown to the distinguished list of bands with whom he had worked.

The breadth of Rowles's experience and the wry humour which he worked into his playing made him the kind of pianist who could support and flatter almost any singer. His instant recall of vast tracts of the vocal repertoire made him an asset to singers like Tony Bennett and Peggy Lee as well as the studio orchestras of Twentieth Century Fox, Universal

Pictures and NBC Television, with whom he worked for much of the 1950s and 1960s. He found time to participate in some of Jimmy Guiffre's more avant garde experiments, playing the celeste on the album *Jimmy Guiffre Clarinet*.

In the early 1970s, as synthesizers appeared and studio orchestras were laid off, Rowles began a new phase of his career on the East Coast. He followed an appearance at the 1973 Newport Festival with several years in the corner bars and cabarets of New York, where he became a master of the bass and piano duos required by the licensing laws. Some of his finest recordings are duos with bassists Red Mitchell, Buster Williams and Ray Brown.

At just about the age most people retire, Rowles accepted Norman Granz's invitation to join Ella Fitzgerald in 1981, aged 63. He stayed two years before resigning, overcome by Ella's daunting work schedule and constant travelling. He returned to the West Coast and continued to produce highly acclaimed records, including a recent collaboration with the English singer Norma Winstone. He was generous with his talent and tutored many jazz players and singers, including (briefly) coaching Marilyn Monroe in her quaint singing style.

His most noteworthy pupil was his own daughter Stacy, born in 1955, who has become a distinguished jazz trumpeter, a champion of women's causes in jazz, and who survives him.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

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## THE DIVISION

The scene at the division will be one which will never be forgotten by those who had the privilege of witnessing it. The House was filled from floor to ceiling. The Peers' Gallery overflowed with members of the Upper House, and beside and behind were serried ranks of spectators in the galleries assigned to Ambassadors and distinguished strangers; while the Speaker's and Strangers' Galleries were crammed to suffocation. When Mr. Gladstone sat down at 7 minutes past 1, having spoken nearly one hour and three-quarters, the Speaker immediately put the question, and a tremendous shout went up when he asked those in favour of the Bill to say "Aye". This was immediately followed by an even louder cry against the Bill. The Speaker had no hesitation in declaring that the "Ayes" had it, but the decision was formally challenged, amid cheers, counter-cheers, and cries of "Agreed" from the Irish benches. Then the bells rang, the bar became more

## ON THIS DAY

June 8, 1886

As a result of the defeat of his Home Rule Bill, Gladstone resigned, and a general election resulted in Lord Salisbury forming a Conservative Government.

crowded than ever, and the Speaker instructed the "Ayes" to go to the right and the "Noes" to the left. A scene of tremendous excitement then took place. It was believed that the Government was beaten, for the Ayes tellers had returned, some seconds before the Noes. Then the long pent-up excitement culminated with a loud, long, and triumphant cheer from the Unionists. It was in vain that the Speaker and beckoned for silence. Cheers succeeded cheers, and the tellers stood in line waiting for the fatal

numbers to be announced. At 26 minutes past 1 silence was temporarily restored, and Mr. Brand, in tones so clear as not to be misunderstood, announced, "Ayes to right, 311; Noes to left, 341." It would be almost impossible to describe what followed. The rank and file of the Conservative party shouted themselves hoarse with cheering, at the same time waving their hats triumphantly and jumping on their seats in exultation. There was also some cheering on the Liberal benches, but Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Cairns sat immovable, and Ministers apparently accepted their defeat with resignation. A voice sang out "Three cheers for the Grand Old Man." The whole House seemed to rise at the call, and Liberals and Unionists vied in applauding the mover of the Bill. The galleries seemed to join in the honour paid to the Prime Minister, for the whole House appeared charged with electricity. Mr. Gladstone's motion to adjourn was at once adopted. Members then began to leave amidst discordant cries against the dissentient Liberals.



